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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, DECEMBER 18-20, 2015

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‘Incredible experience’

BUILD A VILLAGE

Province prepares to greet refugees bound for Canada



Stephanie Taylor
 Metro | Winnipeg

Like most people, Ray Loewen is looking forward to the weekend.

But not for reasons you might expect.

On Saturday, he and other volunteers will arrive at the Winnipeg International Airport to welcome a Syrian refugee family to Manitoba — not to mention our winter wallop — for the first time.

“There’s something pretty incredible about being at the airport and meeting a new family as they arrive in Canada for the first time,” Loewen said Thursday.

Loewen is chairman of the Altona-based non-profit Build a Village,

which has worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to sponsor five Syrian refugee families.

The first family of nine will travel with 224 other refugees to Toronto on Friday, then continue on their journey to Winnipeg the next day.

In total, 17 refugees are set to arrive on Saturday, eight of whom will stay in our city while the rest leave for Altona.

“Last night, our volunteers started cleaning the house, and this morning they continued cleaning and now they’re in the process of ... getting the fridge and shelves stocked up with food,” Loewen said Thursday, adding rental units have been found for each new family.

Over the past decade, his group has sponsored around 25 different refugee families. But he said each time a new family arrives, it gives volunteers and community members the chance to step back and see their home through the eyes of newcomers.

“It’s a pretty incredible experience.”



CONTRIBUTED

The Facebook page that helps drunk drivers avoid police checks

Officers fear lives at risk **metroNEWS**

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New residential schools monument in the works

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mayor says reconciliation will continue to be a priority



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Planning is underway to build a new monument dedicated to residential school survivors in Winnipeg.

Mayor Brian Bowman said that's among many initiatives being discussed by the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle, which he established earlier this year in the wake of Winnipeg being named the most racist city in Canada.

"One of the things I have to say that I'm most proud of this last year was how this community came together in response to the Maclean's article," Bowman said during a year-end interview with Metro on Wednesday.

"Rather than simply attacking the messenger and a headline that we could all surely debate until we're blue in the face, the reality is racism does exist."

Bowman said working towards reconciliation with the city's indigenous community would continue to be a priority.



Mayor Brian Bowman talked about the planning for a new residential schools monument in his office this week and said its one of many initiatives being discussed by the city's Indigenous Advisory Circle. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

ity in 2016.

"Winnipeg can be a leader in this and when it comes to reconciliation," he said.

Some of that work includes examining some of the 94 recommendations listed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Although most are directed towards the federal and provincial governments, some involve civic action, such as cities fully adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of

“Winnipeg can be a leader in this and when it comes to reconciliation.”

Brian Bowman

Indigenous Peoples and offering more comprehensive training around Indigenous issues and history to public servants.

Building a highly visible resi-

dential schools monument in each capital city to recognize survivors and their families is also listed.

"Dedications so that we don't forget residential schools and we learn from them is something we're already working on right now," Bowman said.

Discussions have centred around a former residential school located on Academy Road.

Bowman said city staff are also examining the legal im-

plications of adopting the UN declaration, and that members of his Indigenous advisory committee are meeting with training staff to strengthen the teaching of reconciliation to civic employees.

By the end of January, Bowman also said there would be a public update on the ideas and initiatives discussed during last year's national anti-racism summit, which was held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

FUNDING

'Difficult' budget coming

Winnipeg's mayor is clear: One of the keys to our city's success rests in the pockets of the province.

During a year-end interview with Metro Winnipeg, Brian Bowman stressed his top priority for 2016 is to secure an agreement from what could be a new Manitoba government for a "new, modern funding model," between the province and city.

Bowman has repeatedly criticized the current system as broken throughout his first year in mayoral office, citing the city only receives one-third of infrastructure dollars back in investment despite shelling out millions in PST.

"We need a model that is going to grow with us as our community grows," he said Monday.

"A reliance on a regressive form of taxation, like property taxes, isn't the way we're going to grow our way out of the infrastructure deficit. It's not how we're going to pay for new growth."

Bowman offered little in the way of specifics in terms of the 2016 budget, only that spending on road repairs will top the list and that hard choices can be expected.

"We are having to make, and will be making once we hear from Winnipeggers, very difficult decisions," he said.

"The reality is we've got a \$74-million gap to make up and we are, as a community, going to have to make that up somehow."

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

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POLICE

Online group posts Check Stop venues

Evan Matthews
For Metro | Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Police Service holiday check stop program is underway, but some aren't finding the program festive.

A Facebook group called Check Stop Alert Winnipeg is posting known check stop and photo radar locations. The group is 7,467 members strong.

"Police use social media during investigations," said Kris Friesen, an administrator of the page.

"Police have ways of finding and sending information about things. Why can't civilians have a heads-up, too?"

Although the group aims to



Why can't civilians have a heads-up, too?

Kris Friesen

inform people about check stop and radar locations, many of the posts now include general rants against the WPS, including anger-fueled photos posted by members of the page.

But Friesen said the administrators are cracking down, and have been removing members who spread hate.

"The page isn't designed to give the cops a hard time," said Friesen. "We're not promoting drunk driving, racism or hate of any kind. That's not the point."

Winnipeg Police Staff Sgt. Rob Riffel said the group puts lives at risk if it prevents drunk drivers from being caught.

"I'd like for (group members) to accompany my officers to a next-of-kin notification for a death caused by an impaired driver," said Riffel. "Plan ahead. Leave your car at home."

Riffel said the Winnipeg Police Service wasn't aware of the page's existence, adding they disagree with the page's intention, but there isn't any way to reprimand those involved. Friesen said he's certain police monitor the page.

"On one hand, we're discouraged people would try to warn (others) who are committing a criminal offence on how to avoid being caught," said Riffel.

"On the other hand, it reinforces to these people that the WPS is actively out there doing impaired driving enforcement," he said.

Friesen said the administrators are aware drunks use the page to avoid criminal charges, but it's a flaw of the page. He added the administrators make sure to make posts encouraging people to plan ahead, and to avoid impaired driving.



Stuart Redsky shares his joy after learning of a plan to build a road to the Trans Canada Highway. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finally, Freedom

COMMUNITY

Road will link Shoal Lake 40 First Nation to rest of world

Tears flowed at the Manitoba legislature Thursday as an isolated reserve under one of the country's longest boil-water advisories received a lifeline to the outside world.

Erwin Redsky, chief of the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, called the announcement of a \$30-million all-weather road to connect the reserve to the mainland "a historic day for my community."

Redsky said the land used a century ago during construc-

tion of an aqueduct to carry fresh water to Winnipeg belonged to the reserve on the Manitoba-Ontario boundary and was taken "without our permission."

But he also acknowledged three levels of government are coming together to finally build what reserve residents have dubbed their "Freedom Road."

"We need not dwell on the past," he said, "but it's important that we acknowledge and honour those who have brought us to this present opportunity for reconciliation."

People living on the reserve now must use a treacherous ice road in the winter and some have died falling through the ice. In the summer, the First Nation depends on an aging ferry, but the vessel failed gov-



There is no need to dwell on the mistakes of the past.

Erwin Redsky

ernment inspection this year.

Health-care workers and ambulances won't risk going to the community. Children must leave the reserve to continue their education past Grade 8.

The community has been under a boil-water advisory for 18 years. A water treatment plant is prohibitively expensive, as are housing and sewer upgrades, without a road to transport the necessary equipment.

Redsky said those who paid

the "supreme price" of living on an isolated island should be honoured — "all those who were lost just trying to get home."

The former Conservative government refused to commit to help fund construction of a road, despite willingness by Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to split the cost three ways.

However, the Liberals promised during the recent federal election campaign that the Shoal Lake community would get its road.

"Today we welcome and honour Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett who has restored Canada's role and is carrying an important and new federal commitment and shared vision into our circle," Redsky said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

One hurt in school bus crash

A person was in hospital in critical condition after a car crashed into a school bus in the Winnipeg area.

Duane Brothers, superintendent of the Louis Riel School Division, says neither the students on the bus nor the bus driver were hurt.

Brothers says the southbound car veered into the northbound lane and hit the bus, which ended up in a ditch.

He says it was the driver of the car who was hurt. Some of the children were also taken to hospital as a precaution. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Winnipeg Humane Society says they're facing a shortfall after unexpected repairs and too many successful adoptions.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO FILE

Thirsty for fresh funds

ANIMAL WELFARE

Broken pipe leaves shelter seeking \$30K by end of year

The Winnipeg Humane Society says they're facing a financial shortfall, mostly thanks to a busted water pipe.

The non-profit animal shelter said they received a water bill totalling \$32,000 after a hidden pipe was found broken.

The society says they're also a victim of their own success.

"We've done great work, but it comes at a cost," the WHS CEO Javier Schwersensky said in a press release. "More incoming animals require additional funds to care for them."

The WHS said they've begun to partner with other adoption

agencies and rescue groups to bring in more animals.

"The WHS takes on other rescues' most difficult cases because it has the veterinarian clinic to care for animals, and behaviour experts who rehabilitate dogs and help them reach full potential," said the release.

The shelter says by the end of November, they admitted 8,220 animals, 579 more compared to the first 11 months of 2014.

Adoptions are also up — 4,148 animals found new homes compared to 3,915 last year. But each adoption is subsidized by the shelter.

Schwersensky said the WHS hopes to raise an additional \$30,000 by the end of the year to help pay for the increase in adoptions and the water bill. Donations can be made at winnipeghumanesociety.ca.

METRO

IN BRIEF

Officers remind that pets are for life, not Christmas

Winnipeg's animal service officers will be making the rounds this holiday season to help to educate people about responsible pet ownership.

In a release issued Thursday, the city said the goal of the campaign is to ensure all pet owners know the ins and outs of Win-

nipeg's responsible pet ownership bylaw.

"We're excited to head out to city parks to hand out dog treats, meet come local pet owners and chat about the importance of being a responsible pet owner," Leland Gordon, chief operating officer of the animal services agency, said in Thursday's release.

METRO

POLITICS

First-past-the-post system under review

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger is promising to examine a possible overhaul of the province's electoral system.

Selinger said an all-party committee will consult the public on electoral reform, to determine what changes, if any, might occur.

It mirrors a similar commitment from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Selinger said Manitoba's review will be after the federal one.

The committee would look at changing the first-past-the-post system, which allows parties to form strong majority governments with less than half the popular vote.

Trudeau has said he would prefer a preferential-ballot system, where voters rank their first, second and subsequent choices.

Liberal legislature member

“It is interesting that after 16 years in government, (Selinger) has finally got around to thinking this is an important issue.”

Jon Gerrard, Liberals

Jon Gerrard said he doubts the NDP government is sincere about electoral reform, because it has not made any changes in 16 years in office.

"It is interesting that after 16 years in government, (Selinger) has finally got around to thinking this is an important issue," Gerrard said Wednesday.

Selinger's promise is also contingent on being re-elected.

Manitobans go to the polls April 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WASTE DISPOSAL

Remains of cruise ship dismantled

The rusted, rotting remains of an abandoned old cruise ship that used to offer posh excursions on the Red River have finally been dismantled after spending the last 25 years parked in a slough.

The owners of the MS Lord Selkirk II — who later went bankrupt — simply abandoned it, leaving the province and the City of Selkirk to split the \$400,000 cost of removing it.

This week, council met with officials from SaskSteel

to thank them for their work.

Mayor Larry Johannson says it was money well spent to get rid of a huge eyesore, a pollutant and a danger to the community.

The ship was built in Selkirk in 1969 and was 53 metres long.

In its heyday, it could take 130 passengers and 40 crew members up and down the Red River and around Lake Winnipeg on multi-day excursions.

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



The MS Lord Selkirk II is no longer polluting Manitoba waterways. HANDOUT

GOOD DEED

Socks collected for Winnipeg charity

Thousands of Manitobans will have warmer feet this winter thanks to a charity sock drive.

Last month Megan Hemenway kicked off the campaign in the hope of collecting 1,000 pairs.

In just a few weeks she has quadrupled her goal thanks to donations from people

around the province.

The socks are being given to people who use the Siloam Mission in downtown Winnipeg.

Staff at the humanitarian organization say they hand out about 200 pairs of socks each day.

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



With a lower markup on his craft beer, Tyler Birch said Barn Hammer Brewing will have an easier time launching when it opens, which is expected to be in mid-February. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Markup dropping for craft brewers

BEER

Rate lowered to 10 per cent for smaller operations



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Tyler Birch was prepared to take a bigger price markup hit when his Barn Hammer Brewing company starts selling craft beer in the new year.

But he says changes to the province's markup structure for craft brewers announced Thursday will make getting into the business "way easier" off the hop.

The current markup of 25 per cent on brewers producing less

than 2,000 hectolitres of draught beer will drop to 10 per cent on April 1, 2016.

"It gives us the ability to keep our beer very interesting... and still be able to survive," Birch said, adding he was planning on having the same variety anyways, "but this makes it a lot more viable and easier to do."

The 60 per cent reduction in markup means Barn Ham-

mer Brewing and others will be able to either keep a greater portion of revenue or keep their prices lower to grow their market share.

"It's really nice to see the government getting behind us," Birch said.

Ron Lemieux, Minister responsible for Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, said he feels the reduced markup is important.

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WOMEN'S SHELTER

Fundraiser asked people to contribute uplifting notes

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeggers sent their thoughts to survivors of domestic violence by way of inspirational messages last week.

This year, Tiffany Ponce, Jessica Bro-Z, Laura Artus and Jasmin Orchid were a few of the local women artists who entertained the crowd at Women Helping Women, a fundraiser for Osborne House.

The third annual event took place on Dec. 11 and it was the first year organizer Stacey James asked attendees to bring letters and cards with messages for people using

the shelter.

"I do a lot of inspiring with my writing," said James, who is a writer and musician.

"There's been a lot of feedback from strangers regarding how those types of things make them feel."

Through the positive response her writing has received, she came up with the idea to gather inspiring pieces of writing from attendees of Women Helping Women to pass along to Osborne House with the night's monetary donations.

When she brought the idea forward, she said many people were excited about it, including Barbara Judt, CEO of Osborne House.

James did not read many

of the submissions before sending them to the shelter, but she said there was poetry about building self-esteem, cards with messages encouraging shelter users to stay strong and Tiffany Ponce's album, which focuses on the theme of empowering women.

"They are encouraging, inspiring, uplifting," James said.

The messages will show the receivers that there are people who care about them, even if they don't know those people, she said.

James said the number of submissions was lower than she expected, but she plans to promote that aspect of the fundraiser at the 2016 edition of Women Helping Women.

“There's been a lot of feedback from strangers regarding how those types of things make them feel.”

Stacey James, organizer, on the messages



ARTS ANNUAL ROBERT MUNSCH SHOW READY FOR FLIGHT Kristian Jordan, Alissa Watson and Toni Reimer perform in Mission: Munschpossible, which runs until Jan. 3 at the Prairie Theatre Exchange. PTE's annual show inspired by Robert Munsch will see the stage transformed into an airport where all ages will be charmed by the antics of Agents 42 and 13. BRUCE MONK/PTE



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5

COOL WINTER GETAWAYS IN MANITOBA

Staycations are here to stay. The Conference Board of Canada recently predicted a rise in the number of overnight travel stays within Canada, thanks to a lousy Canadian dollar and low gas prices for those road trips. Here are Metro's picks for some Manitoba-style staycations. **SHEL ZOLKEWICH FOR METRO**



1 Riding Mountain National Park:

Join Parks Canada staff for a campfire gathering to learn more about animal tracks in the snow. Or take part in the annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 22. Snowshoe and cross-country trails snake through the park too. Stay at Elkhorn Resort with its new indoor water park or the cosy Lakehouse in downtown Wasagaming.



2 Hecla Island:

Your home base for time on the island is the Lakeview Hecla Resort with its family and pet-friendly rooms, a big and bright waterpark and room to roam outdoors. Grownups will love Salka Spa and its adjoining pools, steam room and hot tubs. They'll also love the \$6 kids meals in Seagulls Restaurant. There's a toboggan hill, snowshoe rentals and cross-country trails to help explore the island. For more, visit www.lakeviewhotels.com/hotels/hecla/



3 Whiteshell Provincial Park:

Book one of the many year-round resorts and get ready to explore the boreal forest. It's a favourite destination for snowmobilers, winter hikers and cross-country skiers. Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes at Falcon Lake offer 12 runs plus a tubing run and biathlon range.



4 Brandon:

Take in a Wheat Kings game at Keystone Centre, pick up a piece of vintage furniture at Lady of the Lake and settle in for an evening of great food and music at the brand new Prairie Firehouse. The Brandon Hills Wildlife Management Area boasts a network of excellent cross-country ski trails ranging from two to seven and a half kilometres.

5 Exchange District:

Stay really close to home, but feel like you're in a new city. Stay at Mere, one of Winnipeg's funky boutique hotels, where you're within walking distance to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's performance of The Nutcracker. Enjoy after theatre cocktails and snacks at the Albert Street Cocktail Company.



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Nathan Rogers and an all-star cast of Winnipeg singer-songwriters will celebrate the music of Stan Rogers on Friday at the West End Cultural Centre. CONTRIBUTED

Still standing up for the little guy

BACKSTAGE PASS

Singer honours late father Stan Rogers with holiday tribute

Jared Story
Metro | Winnipeg

At six-foot-four, Stan Rogers was a big man, but his songs stood up for the little guy.

With a booming baritone, Stan sang songs for and about working-class Canadians, be they the Maritime fishermen in Make or Break Harbour or the Saskatchewan grain farmers in The Field Behind the Plow.

Stan died in 1983 in a fire aboard Air Canada Flight 797, alongside 22 other passengers.

His son, Nathan Rogers, a Winnipeg-based singer-songwriter, says that blue collar

quality is one reason Stan's songs have stood the test of time.

"I think a lot of his songs are truer now than they've ever been. We still have trawlers just outside of our territorial borders using gill nets that are half the size. They take everything. They take all the bycatch and don't put back what they aren't fishing for," said Rogers, 36, evoking Make or Break Harbour.

"Governments are still screwing the little guy. The working men and women are still having as hard a time as they ever have. Part of the reason these songs have longevity is simply because things sadly haven't changed."

Another reason Stan's songs endure is simply because people keep singing them.

On Friday at the West End Cultural Centre, Rogers and his band The Light Wester-

nares will support Winnipeg singer-songwriters Scott Nolan, Andrew Neville, The Crooked Brothers, Emma Cloney, Carly Dow and Jay Nowicki as they perform such Stan songs as Barrett's Privateers, The Mary Ellen Carter and Northwest Passage.

"When people put their own take and spin on Stan's music, it takes on a life of its own," Rogers says. "When changes get made, the organic nature of these songs is preserved. As a result, the longevity of a song is increased because it hasn't begun to decay. It's actually taken on new life."

At Last I'm Ready for Christmas: A Holiday Tribute to Stan Rogers goes down on Friday at the West End Cultural Centre. Tickets are \$25 at the WECC, Music Trader, Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store and Ticketfly or \$30 at the door. Showtime is 8 p.m.

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New plan for communism memorial

POLITICS

Fresh location, smaller budget and a redesign after troubles



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

It's back to the drawing board for the controversial memorial to the victims of communism, — a new location, a new design and a smaller budget.

On Thursday, the federal government squashed their predecessors' much-maligned plan to build the memorial on land southwest of the Supreme Court building in Ottawa.

That location was opposed by Ottawa's city council,

community and architectural groups and Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly said the memorial will instead be built at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories.

Joly said she consulted more than 30 people and there was consensus that the memorial should be moved there.

"It is a place clearly accessible to residents and visitors," she

said. The design of the memorial, which has also come under criticism, will be scrapped.

Joly said a new design competition will be launched in the new year, with a view to completing the memorial by 2018.

The planned \$5.5-million budget is also no more, but Joly said the federal government is still helping to fund it, with contributions capped at \$1.5 million, half of the new cost.



Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Trudeau unlikely to pressure Saudis

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has no "immediate plans" to call Saudi Arabian authorities to ask for the liberation of jailed blogger Raif Badawi.

In a year-end interview with The Canadian Press on Wednesday, Trudeau said he won't pick up the phone right now on behalf of Badawi, who was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in jail for his criticism of Saudi clerics. "It's not in my immediate plans," he said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion raised the matter with his Saudi counterpart, Adel Al Jubeir, when they met

in Ottawa on Thursday. They discussed the state of human rights in Saudi Arabia as well as Badawi's case, where Dion reiterated a request for clemency.

"Raif Badawi has a family who are here in Canada, which gives a certain connection," Trudeau said. "It's a humanitarian case on which we continue to express ourselves in a clear fashion."

Trudeau's remarks came despite the fact that when he was opposition leader some of his MPs, including Dion, called on then-prime minister Stephen Harper to personally ask the Saudi king to release Badawi.

Dion raised the issue in the House of Commons on January 26, asking "Will Prime Minister (Harper) intercede himself directly with the new Saudi king, as Mr. Badawi's wife is begging him?"

Badawi is not a Canadian citizen but his wife and three children live in Sherbrooke, Que.

He was arrested in 2012, convicted in 2014 and received 50 of the 1,000 lashes in January of this year during a public flogging.

His imprisonment has drawn widespread condemnation both internationally and in Canada. Quebec lawmakers unanimously adopted a motion in February calling for his immediate release, vowing to expedite his immigration case should he be allowed to leave Saudi Arabia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ensaf Haidar, wife of jailed Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, shows a portrait of her husband. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Scott becomes first to test new e-democracy rules

Craig Scott, a former New Democrat MP, has started an online petition to the House of Commons demanding a judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of prisoners during the Afghan war. The petition process went digital last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal teen is first found guilty of new terror law

The prosecution says a Montreal-area teen, who cannot be named, has become the first person in Canada to be found guilty of attempting to leave the country to participate in terrorism-related activities. The charge was introduced in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PM to focus on jobs, climate

POLITICS

Trudeau says there's no need to open Constitution

Justin Trudeau says there is no pressing problem facing the country that can only be resolved by opening the Constitution — a laborious, time-consuming road the new prime minister has no intention of going down.

That includes the fact that Quebec has never formally signed onto the Constitution, which was patriated in 1982 with a charter of rights by Trudeau's father, Pierre, over the objections of the province's then-separatist government.

"What I ask now to anyone who offers to open the Constitution, or says we should open the Constitution, is: what concrete problem are we trying to solve that is unsolvable without opening the Constitution?" Trudeau said during a 75-minute sit-down with the Ottawa bureau of The Canadian Press.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with reporters in Ottawa on Wednesday.

PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I'd rather be talking about climate change and energy issues and job creation and training and health care and all these things that will make a concrete difference in people's lives."

Trudeau scoffed at a suggestion that Quebec's continued refusal to sign the Constitution is a major problem.

"Which articulates itself how?" he asked rhetorically.

Some Quebecers will always complain that Quebec is excluded from the Constitution, Trudeau acknowledged. But the Constitution does apply to the province and nothing in it has

+ SENATE

Some politicians have argued that the Constitution should be opened to abolish or reform the Senate. But Trudeau has opted instead for reforms that can be implemented without changing the Constitution.

limited Quebec's ability to deliver health care or education or take action on the issues that matter most to Quebecers, he said.

As well, he said Quebecers are among those who value the charter of rights most highly.

Moreover, Trudeau asserted that the Oct. 19 federal election showed, for the first time in three decades, that Quebecers want to re-engage and play a role in the governance of the country.

"More than half the MPs elected in Quebec are from the governing party. That is an indication that Quebecers are not excluded from government or feeling excluded from Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ukraine wants more Canadian police trainers

Ukraine's newly appointed national police chief is asking Justin Trudeau's Liberal government for more help in establishing and training a professional security force.

Khatia Dekanoidze made the pitch to both RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson and Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion in separate meetings over the last two days. The creation of a trusted, national policing agency in the war-torn former Soviet country, formally enacted on Nov. 7, has become a major priority for President Petro Poroshenko's government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Killer whale population experiencing baby boom

The endangered killer whale population off British Columbia's coast is experiencing a baby boom.

Scientists say an eighth calf has been born to the so-called J-pod of southern resident killer whales that's been growing over the past year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Feds considered punishment for non-compliance

The Canadian government considered punishing First Nations who refused to comply with controversial financial transparency legislation by putting someone else in control of their books, according to newly released documents.

The Toronto Star obtained a memo prepared for former ab-

original affairs minister Bernard Valcourt in February — released in response to an access-to-information request — recommending options for dealing with First Nations that had not yet complied with the First Nations Financial Transparency Act (Bill C-27).

The law, brought in by the

previous Conservative government, requires First Nations to submit financial documents, including audited financial statements and the salaries and expenses of chiefs and band councilors, to be published on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs website.

The partially redacted memo

at one point discusses the idea of placing non-compliant First Nations under third-party management, which means a private-sector consultant — whose salary must be covered by the First Nation — would take over the administration of money associated with departmentally funded programs and services.

The memo acknowledges this would be a risky move.

"Imposing a third-party funding agreement manager as a sanction of non-compliance for First Nations must be carefully considered and should be aligned with the funding agreement," reads the memo dated Feb. 26. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde

ADRIAN WYLD/

THE CANADIAN PRESS




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Let sleeping teens lie

EDUCATION

Eight too early to start class, experts say

More school districts around the U.S. are heeding the advice of scientists who have long said that expecting teens to show up to class before 8 a.m. isn't good for their health or their report cards.

The Seattle school board voted last month to adopt an 8:45 a.m. start time beginning next year for all of its high schools and most of its middle schools, joining 70 districts across the nation who adopted a later start time in recent years.

The movement still has a long way to go: There are more than 24,000 U.S. high schools. Supporters expect that such decisions will be made more quickly now that people have mostly stopped debating the underlying science.

Proponents of later start times got a boost last year when the American Academy of Pediatrics said that while starting later isn't a panacea for



Ben Early yawns before classes at Roosevelt High School in Seattle. The Seattle school board voted last month to adopt an 8:45 a.m. start time beginning next year for all of its high schools and most of its middle schools. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

teen health and academic problems, it can improve students' lives in many other ways.

"Essentially, across the board, any domain that you look at improves pretty dramatically," said Dr. Judy Owens of Boston Children's Hospital and author of the academy's policy statement on teen sleep. After the report, the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention also pushed for later bell times.

Research studies have shown later start times help combat sleep deprivation in teens, who naturally fall asleep later than their parents would like, and improve academic success, attendance, mental health and cut sleep-related car accidents.

Bridget Shelton, a freshman at Seattle's Roosevelt High School, believes the change in bell times will help her move from getting 6-7 hours of sleep to closer to 8 hours next year.

"I know many students that come in and are just struggling to stay awake," she said. "Many of my friends are falling asleep in class."

BALTIMORE

Hung jury means retrial in Freddie Gray case

Instead of a dramatic conclusion to the first of six trials of police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, the mistrial left Baltimore in suspense and confusion, with no immediate understanding of what happens next.

The city had braced for a possible repeat of the protests, destruction and dismay that engulfed the city in April after Gray's neck was broken in the back of a police van. But several small marches ended peacefully overnight as the community tried to process the news.

Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams acknowledged the hung jury Wednesday after

the panel deadlocked over whether Officer William Porter had committed any crimes by failing to take measures that might have saved the life of the young black man, who was shackled and placed face down in the wagon after running from police.

Back at square one, prosecutors and defence attorneys met in Williams' chambers Thursday morning to discuss dates for a possible retrial. A uniformed deputy stood guard, and when the lawyers left about 30 minutes later, they declined to comment, citing the judge's gag order.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Putin describes Trump as 'bright and talented'

In Vladimir Putin's view, Donald Trump is "bright and talented" and "the absolute leader" in the presidential race. The Russian word he used not only means "bright" in terms of intelligence, but also "vivid" and even "gaudy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Donald vs. Kimmel

In an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show Wednesday, Donald Trump was questioned about campaign issues, saying he's gotten calls of thanks from friends who are Muslim.

"Those may have been crank calls," Kimmel replied.

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'World is a living mosaic'

SOCIAL MEDIA

Campaign to highlight migrants' contributions

Migrants from around the world are sharing their life stories in a unique "I am a Migrant" campaign, launched by the International Organization of Migration to remind the world of the value of migrants.

Hundreds of people — including a Somali woman who moved to Canada to go to university, a French woman in Georgia and a Congolese artist in Mauritania — are participating in the global social media campaign, posting their profiles and photos on the website iamamigrant.org.

"We know from economic reports the incredible contributions migrants make. But it is easy to forget that," said Leonard Doyle, IOM spokesman. "We have to remind ourselves the world is a living mosaic and that makes

it much richer."

The campaign comes at a time when the news has been focused on scenes of desperate refugees, and the sometimes extreme political reactions those images have provoked.

Doyle hopes showing the value of migrants through positive stories will shift the political narrative and counter xenophobia and anti-immigrant rhetoric prevalent in parts of Europe.

The Mexican government, an enthusiastic participant, will put "Soy Migrante" posters on display next month.

Facebook in Germany has also lent support, donating online advertising space. Four videos have been posted in German on Facebook in the last two days, garnering five million views as of noon Thursday.

The campaign — launched in time for the UN's International Migrants Day — builds on a crowd-funded initiative "I am an Immigrant," introduced earlier this year in the U.K. by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Reflections on life in a new country ① **Lauriane, from France, now in Georgia** — "Everyone refers to people like me as 'expats.' In reality, I am a migrant." ② **Nadifo, from Somalia, now in Canada** — "I think Canada is a good country, where multiculturalism is practised, where so many people are there together in peace." ③ **Mihir, from India, now in the U.K.** — Mihir immigrated to the U.K. many years ago to follow his dream to become a journalist. "I feel Indian but I feel British, too. This is a duality." ④ **Rahi, from Iraq, now in Belgium** — "(My family has been) given so many opportunities here that Belgium has become our second home." ALL PHOTOS VIA IAMAMIGRANT.ORG

EUROPE

EU plans border force

European Union heavyweights France and Germany on Thursday backed a potentially divisive plan for a border guard agency with powers to unilaterally deploy to member states unable or unwilling to manage their borders.

The border and coast guard project is chiefly aimed at protecting Europe's external borders in countries like Greece and Italy as they struggle to manage the arrival of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict or poverty for better lives in Europe.

But the idea the agency could send ships, planes or other assets to a country even if it opposes the deployment is reviving fears about a loss of national sovereignty to unelected officials at the EU's executive Commission in Brussels.

Countries further north in Europe like Germany and Sweden — the preferred destinations of many migrants — are keen to have tighter controls to ease the flow of people, as is France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBERS

Global refugee population tops 20M

The global refugee population has surpassed the 20-million mark for the first time since 1992, says the United Nations refugee agency.

According to its 2015 mid-year update report, an average of 4,600 people are being

forced to flee their countries every day as Syria's war remains the single biggest cause worldwide of both new refugees and continuing mass internal and external displacement.

By the end of June, there were 20.2 million refugees —

up from 19.5 million a year ago — and 34 million internally displaced people — up by 2 million — around the world.

In the first six months of the year, the international community received 993,600 asylum claims, accounting for a

78 per cent increase over the same period in 2014, said the report to be released in Geneva on Friday.

As of June 30, Turkey was the world's biggest host country, with 1.84 million refugees on its territory. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM

Most common source countries for refugees

- **Syria:** 4.2 million. Fleeing civil war and the threat of extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).
- **Afghanistan:** 2.6 million. Fleeing Taliban extremists.

- **Somalia:** 1.1 million. (Fleeing insurgency led by Al-Shabab).
- **South Sudan:** 744,100. (Fleeing civil war)
- **Sudan:** 640,900. (Fleeing civil war).

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY 2015 MID-YEAR REPORT

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Tunisians take part in a ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, a young street vendor, which sparked the revolution that ousted a dictator and ignited the Arab Spring on December 17, 2015 in the central town of Sidi Bouzid. MOKHTAR KAHOUli/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Tunisians celebrate birth of Arab Spring

ANNIVERSARY

Five years since a street vendor set fire to himself

Tunisians who won the Nobel Peace Prize joined townspeople in the country's beleaguered heartland Thursday to mark five years since a desperate street vendor set himself on fire, unwittingly setting in motion upheaval across the Arab world.

Children waved Tunisian flags, horsemen in traditional

clothing paraded and crowds sang the national anthem during a celebration around the central plaza of Sidi Bouzid. But disenchantment tinged the celebrations of a revolution that brought Tunisia a budding democracy.

Unemployment remains rife, and Tunisia is grappling with the threat of violent Islamic extremism, now ravaging the region from neighbouring Libya to Syria, after uprisings inspired by Tunisia's revolt that led to lawlessness or civil war.

Members of the Tunisian quartet of non-governmental groups that won this year's Nobel took part in a series of

events Thursday in Sidi Bouzid, the epicenter of Tunisia's revolution, where fruit vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself alight on Dec. 17, 2010.

It was a personal gesture of protest by Bouazizi, 27, who died of his injuries. But his cry of despair captured the plight of the poor and jobless and echoed throughout the North African country, triggering protests that left 300 dead and thousands injured.

Within a month, the country's autocratic ruler, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, had fled to Saudi Arabia after nearly a quarter-century as president —and soon protests erupted

in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Bahrain and Morocco.

A few hundred people gathered at the town's main plaza, now named after Bouazizi. Security forces were out in large numbers.

Residents feel their concerns about joblessness and corruption remain unanswered, and complained that only one government minister took part in Thursday's event.

"The sacrifice of Mohamed Bouazizi was in vain, it brought nothing to Sidi Bouzid," said resident Riadh Jelali, an unemployed 30-year-old, at Thursday's events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THAILAND

Monarchy's critics silenced

Since last year's military coup, Thailand has seen a spate of lèse majesté prosecutions, putting people in jail for years for insulting the king.

FACEBOOK CRIME

Thanakorn Siripaiboon was arrested and held in a secret military location for almost a week before resurfacing on Monday at a Bangkok courthouse, where he was charged with defaming the monarchy.

The 27-year-old factory worker now faces up to 37 years in prison for liking a Photoshopped picture of the king and

his dog and sharing an infographic about a military corruption scandal on Facebook.

DON'T DIS THE KING

Under the interim constitution, junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha has extraordinary powers to do whatever is necessary to prevent acts undermining national security, including detaining people for up to a week with-



Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyadej.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

out a warrant.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

"The travesty of law enforcement under the junta's rule [has] reached a new low," said Sunai Phasuk of Human Rights Watch. "Thanakorn was charged with lèse majesté for ... comments that Thai authorities considered as mocking the king's dog."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Egypt's Star Wars opening day cancelled

Maybe the Dark Side is to blame.

Fans in Egypt with IMAX tickets for the premiere of Star Wars: The Force Awakens were bitterly disappointed when the theatre in Cairo said it was cancelling its showings on opening day.

"We are extremely sorry to let you know that the IMAX copy of STAR WARS shipped to our theatre is corrupt," the theatre said on its Facebook page Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CRIME

Exec who jacked up drug price arrested

Martin Shkreli, the former hedge-fund manager vilified for buying Turing Pharmaceuticals and jacking up the price of a life-saving drug more than 50-fold, was arrested Thursday on securities fraud charges unrelated to the furor.

The boyish-looking 32-year-old entrepreneur — an unapologetically aggressive businessman and relentlessly self-promoting figure who has called himself “the world’s most eligible bachelor” on Twitter and recently plunged into the hip-hop world by buying an unreleased album by Wu-Tang Clan — was taken into custody in a grey hoodie and awaited an appearance in federal court in Brooklyn.

Online, many people took instant glee in his arrest, some of them joking about a judge

ratcheting up his sentence or lawyers jacking up their hourly fees 5,000 per cent for defending him in his hour of need.

Shkreli was charged in an indictment unconnected to the drug price hikes imposed by his company Turing Pharmaceuticals. The charges instead involve his actions at another pharmaceutical company, Retrophin, which he ran as CEO from 2012 to 2014.

The indictment said Shkreli and others orchestrated three interrelated fraud schemes from 2009 to 2014. It said they fraudulently induced investors to sink their money into two separate funds and misappropriated Retrophin’s assets to satisfy Shkreli’s personal and professional debts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Martin Shkreli is escorted by law enforcement agents in New York on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Facebook is rolling out a feature called Photo Magic that will automatically address a message so it can be sent quickly to friends identified in a picture. iSTOCK

Facebook trying a little Photo Magic

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Feature aims to foster more allegiance to Messenger app

Facebook is trying to make it easier to send photos as the holiday season’s picture-taking frenzy escalates.

The world’s largest social-networking service is offering a feature called Photo Magic that will automatically address a message so it can be sent quickly to Facebook friends identified in a picture. The option relies on the same image-recognition technology that attaches people’s names to Facebook posts.

Facebook Inc. will highlight Photo Magic in a Messenger update that started rolling out Thursday to users of Apple’s iPhones and smartphones running on Google’s Android software.

The update is being distributed to a broad audience after a month of testing among smartphone users in Australia. Facebook is planning to make Photo Magic available to Messenger users everywhere in the world, except in Canada and the European Union.

Messenger has more than 700 million users, about half the size of the audience on Fa-

cebook’s social network.

Facebook is counting on Photo Magic to foster more allegiance to its Messenger app as it competes against other competing services such as Snapchat that have become particularly popular among teenagers and young adults.

As part of the Messenger upgrade, Facebook is also including an option that will allow users to change the colours of their exchanges with different friends and switch the formal name of a recipient to a nickname, such as “mom” or “dad.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9.5B

Number of pictures already being sent each month through Messenger, according to Facebook

CHARITIES

Tech used to tap new dollars

A group of 20-somethings flew from Vancouver to El Salvador earlier this month to build new homes for agricultural families displaced by flooding. Their materials included wood, fibre cement and, most importantly, Snapchat.

The millennials used the popular video-messaging app to record heartfelt donation requests, and then fanned them out to their social networks. In short order, each had crowd-funded the \$3,000 required per home for the 20 families.

The innovative fundraising method that leverages several technologies was developed by a Vancouver technology startup called Change Heroes.

It’s just one of several ventures by British Columbia-based tech companies that are turning philanthropy on its head. They’re doing it by tapping the hard-to-reach millennial demographic using the digital medium that dominates their lifestyle.

By using the tools young adults communicate with, in this case personal, one-to-one video messages, more than 50 per cent of those asked made donations.

The average donation was \$250.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD metroview

You don't have a right to a free online comment section

Commenters on the Globe and Mail's website are (predictably) dismayed.

The Toronto Star announced the end to its online comment sections on Wednesday, and when the Globe reported the move, its own readers — more than 400 of them — mourned the loss.

One wrote a six-point defence of comment sections as avenues for free expression. Some argued the "ultra-left downtown elites" couldn't handle the heat. Many called it short-sighted and said they've no interest in commenting on social media. They like their anonymity and even promised to drop their subscriptions if the Globe followed suit.

But the Star is not out on a limb. Dozens of media outlets around the world, including Postmedia in September, have made the same call. Why? Because comments are rife with abuse and threats, racism, sexism and bigotry (for which the publishers are legally responsible). No one, not even the Globe commenters, denies it. Cleaning up that mess takes resources, and media companies are rather tight on resources these days.

Some outlets, the New York Times being the most prominent, argue comments sections should be thought of not as an added bonus for readers but as the meat of engagement. Lose engagement and you lose readers. Lose readers and

you lose money.

It's perhaps easier for the Grey Lady to downplay moderating costs; it has the advantage of being part of a new digital project to analyze and develop tools for reader comments.

But supposing comments sections really are integral to the exercise of online journalism, readers should be willing to pay. Maybe that means an extra fee in order to comment. Maybe it means watching an ad or just paying more overall for the news.

Readers should know digital and print subscriptions do not cover the cost of journalism, let alone endangered investigative journalism, let alone comment monitors. Ad dollars are only going in one direction, and while companies flail about for the best way to build readership and new revenue, some functions will get cut.

Free speech is important but it's not a newspaper's job to give it to you. Media companies aren't public property. And your anonymity as a commenter is not a right.

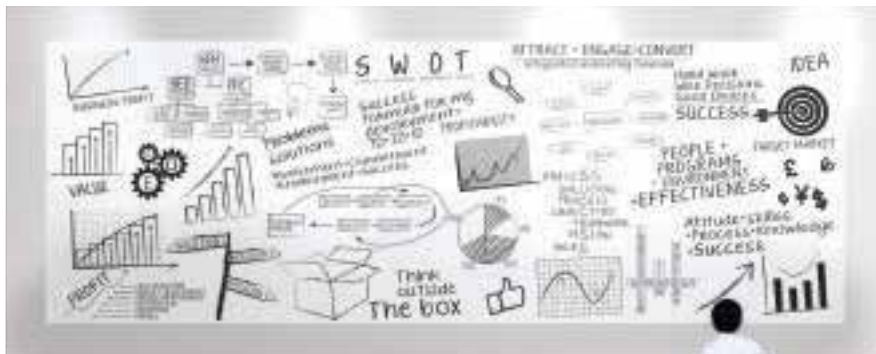
So, yes, it would be great to have lively, spirited, hate-free debate in comments. Reporters would love to find story ideas there, along with new angles and meaningful critiques and media executives wouldn't scoff at 400-plus comments on a single piece.

But if you want it, it should cost you.

THE BIG THING: GUFF

Baloney. Crapola. Baffling B.S. Or, as the Brits say, guff. Whatever you call it, overinflated, nonsensical language is an epidemic in the business world (and everywhere). Lucy Kellaway, the founder of Guffpedia, a new site that names and shames the ghastliest guffers, says the proliferation of goofy jargon is a "tragedy with no remedy." What do you think? Is guff a verbal scourge, or does it have its uses — other than being a convenient way to fill empty air?

SOURCE: THE FINANCIAL TIMES



1 Awful or awesome? Some of Guffpedia's stars include Speedo, for rebranding its swimming cap as a "hair management system," advertising firm Circus Street, which boasts that its brands become "multi-dimensional communication scaffolds," and an unnamed food-industry analyst who calls bottled water an "affordable, portable lifestyle beverage."

2 When guff works So why do people continue to appreciate (and repeat) utter nonsense? "It makes you sound clever; it shows you belong to a club; it is an alternative to thinking, and ... you can say things that sound decent but are actually meaningless," Kellaway says.

3 Dazzled by drivel

In a study published last month, psychologists at the University of Waterloo presented subjects randomly with computer-generated sentences like "Wholeness quiets infinite phenomena," real tweets from spirituality guru Deepak Chopra (example: "Attention and intention are the mechanics of manifestation") and common sayings ("A river cuts through a rock, not because of its power but its persistence"). Many people found all three types of statements profound. Believers in the paranormal were more likely to say the fake and New-Age phrases were really deep.

Home at the haunted house for the holidays



The holidays are coming up, and, if you're like a lot of people, you'll be heading home for a few days to spend time with the fam. And by home, I mean not your home, but the house where your parents live.

Going home and hanging out with your family can be hard for a lot of people. Triple-brewed tensions that have been soaking in a familial collective unconscious for

As your parents age, a procession of hellspawn rush in to fill the dark spaces in the home.

decades, divisive voting allegiances, racism, shame at confronting the shortcomings you only really feel in contrast to high-achieving siblings — the list goes on.

But going home is especially hard when your parents' house is haunted.

Like mine. That's right, my parents got themselves a big old haunted house.

Haunted by what, you ask? Ghosts, of course. Ghosts of vicious arguments, traumatic memories and just your standard-issue childhood. How do you know if you're visiting a haunted house, you ask?

Let me tell you a story. I went home for Christmas last year, and I was hanging my coat up in the closet when a hand came out and took my coat from my hands, hung it neatly on the rack, and hissed, quite politely, "You will never live up to your father's expectations."

The strange thing is, when I was a kid, I didn't even notice that my parents' house was haunted. Although maybe the house had fewer ghosts then. You know, there are things you don't notice about your family when you're a kid because your home is like water to a fish: It's all you know. It's only when you start to see what other families are like that you twig that not all houses' hallways emit deep, echoey whispers of "GET OUUUUT."

Or maybe that just wasn't there when I was a kid. It does make a certain kind of sense that as your parents age, and you age, and once-vital arguments congeal into silence, a procession of hellspawn would rush in to fill the dark spaces of the home where your little soul was nurtured, undeterred by kind words, or lovers, or therapy — nay, growing stronger and feeding on the food only of itself, like a hu-

man centipede that ... grows.

Anyway, how to get rid of these ghosts? There is only one way. That's right: exorcism.

There's a little-known law of the Swiss psychotherapist Carl Jung that says every time you marshal your bravery and broach a Terrifying Topic with your parents, or other family member, in the Haunted Location, the ghost who haunts that location withers and dies. So: Do that.

"But I don't have ghosts in my home!" you say. Don't you? Listen carefully to the silence in the kitchen when everyone else has gone to sleep, and the dinner's dishes, now dry, rest in the dish rack, and two stained glasses of wine stand on the dining room table.

Listen to the hush. Happy holidays!

Stephen Thomas lives and writes in Toronto. Follow him on Twitter @skwthomas.

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The voice of 'We're doomed!'

ANTHONY DANIELS

Playing C-3PO comes with its share of strange moments

Richard Crouse

For Metro Canada



Having one of the most recognizable voices in movie history can lead to some surreal moments. Just ask Anthony Daniels. He's played C-3PO in all seven Star Wars films, including this weekend's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and once rented a car with a very familiar voice on the GPS.

"I felt uncomfortable with me — very clearly — giving me instruction for something I didn't know. I found it quite bizarre. I was driving thinking, 'This is unnatural.'"

Other times the voice, which in real life is less mannered than his on-screen counterpart, brings him unexpected recognition.

For some of his fans, seeing isn't believing — hearing is.

"One of the most charming things that happens to me is when an adult will bring a child to me and say, 'He doesn't believe you're C-3PO.'"

"And why would he? I'm some old guy with white hair. Then I do the

voice. You see the sound go in one ear and then there is an absolutely realistic time delay whilst the synapses process this. Nothing happens for a second-and-a-half, then suddenly there's a smile and excitement. I love that delay while they process it. You couldn't buy that. I've been given that and it gives me utter joy because it is without guile. It is just an honest recognition of something I did."

A week before Daniels trekked to Tunisia in 1976 to begin shooting the sci-fi space opera, he was a stage actor performing in Tom Stoppard's absurdist play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

"It's about two nobodies," he says. "Rosencrantz is a bit gung ho, (he) doesn't think. Doesn't work things out really; just goes for the main thing. His friend Guildenstern is much more reserved, much more intellectual. He thinks about things. Worries about things."

"There I am a week later playing C-3PO in the desert with R2D2. I would say it was three or four years later that something in my brain went, 'Wait a minute, R2 and 3PO are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.' There is a nice synergy there, or connection I think. 3PO is the clever one and R2 is the gung ho one. They're odd couple buddies. It is a great dynamic to act off."

Today C-3PO and R2D2 are seen as a classic combo, but during filming, Daniels had his doubts it would work.

"The problem for me was R2D2 never made any sounds so I was playing off myself. Not to aggrandize myself, but it was quite a challenge. It



The problem for me was R2D2 never made any sounds so I was playing off myself.

Anthony Daniels

was a bit like a terrible *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* where you pretend a chair is your best friend.

"When I saw the final movie and there were R2's beeps and responses, to me it was total magic because that was the first time I ever saw it. They had woven a conversation after the fact."

Playing the golden droid has been a lifelong career for Daniels. The 69-year-old actor was just 30 years old when he first donned C-3PO's suit and has since appeared in person or voice in dozens of movies, television shows, commercials, PSAs and live events as the character. He's even in the legendary *The Star Wars Holiday Special* and says he's been "very lucky to be given the chance" to play C-3PO but calls that his "business life."

"I don't go around saying, 'Do you know who I am?'"

When I suggest he could at least use his fame and the C-3PO voice to get great tables in restaurants he says, "No, no, no. Then they'd say there's no table tonight or tomorrow. I don't think people would be too terribly impressed to have me in the restaurant. Were I to enter in a gold suit then I could have the entire room to myself!"

Despite playing one of the most recognizable characters of all time, Anthony Daniels, inset, almost never gets recognized. HANDOUT



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CURMUDGEONLY CHRISTMAS QUIZ



Not everyone loves the holidays — in fact, some people dread them. Take this quiz to see if you're a Christmas curmudgeon:

1. It's Nov. 1, the day after Halloween, and you walk into a store and hear Christmas music blaring. What do you do?

- a. Buy the store, shut it down
- b. Swear at the top of your lungs
- c. Go on a rampage

2. A loved one asks for a gift that's outrageously expensive. What's your game plan?

- a. Flat out no
- b. Steal it
- c. Buy it, then tear it to shreds

3. You've been tasked with bringing a side dish for Christmas dinner. What do you bring?

- a. Something you picked up at a convenience store on the way to the party — which you're late to
- b. Booze
- c. Water



4. You pass by a Santa look-alike on the street, collecting money for a local charity. What's your reaction?

- a. "Leave. Me. Alone!"
- b. "Make me a sandwich."
- c. "Water... gun."

5. It's Christmas morning. What's your first thought when you open your eyes?

- a. Bah humbug
- b. @#&\$!
- c. Bright light! Bright light!

Mostly a: You're Scrooged — You're selfish and cynical, but you may learn some lessons this Christmas that will turn your frown upside down.

Mostly b: You're a Bad Santa — You've been misbehaving (a lot), but this might be the Christmas you go good.

Mostly c: You're a Gremlin — You'd better not eat any Christmas cookies after midnight.

Whether you're a curmudgeon or not, there's a Christmas movie for you. Starting Dec. 8 and running until Jan. 12, Hollywood Suite is offering a free preview of uncut and commercial-free movies that shaped the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s. Available on television service providers across the country, this free preview includes access to Hollywood Suite On Demand, where available. Rediscover such Christmas classics as Gremlins (1984), Scrooged (1988), Bad Santa (2003) and more.

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Star Wars: May the fashion be with you

COSTUME

Legacy lives on with wardrobe in latest movie instalment

From Obi-Wan Kenobi's Jedi robes to Darth Vader's mask and Princess Leia's golden bikini, costumes featured in Star Wars are arguably as famous as the franchise's characters themselves.

As *The Force Awakens* arrives in theatres on Friday, costume curators and creators can't wait to see how fashion plays a role in the latest instalment.

"From the prequels, you look at some of Natalie Portman's gowns, they're so lavish, they're so fashionable. And what that says to me is that society is doing well," said Saul Drake, project director of the Smithsonian travelling exhibition *Rebel, Jedi, Princess, Queen: Star Wars and the Power of Costume*.

"What's really interesting to see for *The Force Awakens* costumes is that it's kind of almost a return to form for the classic style of costume. They're very sparse, they're very monotone, there's not a lot of embellishment on there. And without even seeing the movie, what that tells me is that the society is not doing that well. There's struggle going on."

"It's interesting to see how those costumes not only create character, but they also reflect what's going on in the Star Wars movies in that time period."

A selection of designs from *The Force Awakens* are among the 70 costumes currently on display in the Smithsonian's exhibition at the Discovery Times Square centre in New York until Sept. 5, 2016.

Styles sported by newcomers Finn (John Boyega) and Rey (Daisy Ridley) are also featured alongside notable ensembles from the six previous films spanning from the 1977 debut to 2002's *Attack of the Clones*.

Toronto-based costume and set designer Sarah Armstrong said she's noted some parallels between the designs she's seen so far on Finn and Rey and those worn by their on-screen predecessors Han Solo and Leia (Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher).

They harken back to fashions from the original movies, which encompassed Asian-inspired designs with simple shapes alongside military-influenced styles,



Armstrong said.

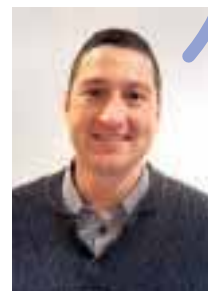
"I think it's incredible how the original designer (John Mollo) was able to blend and marry the Samurai with a modern warrior and build archetypes that have remained timeless," said Armstrong. "You can't ignore that. And there are very few films out there that have been able to do that."

"I think that's also one of the reasons it's been so successful because it's a unique thing on its own, and that's why it still retains its impact."

Among the most enduring costumes from the film franchise is its most revealing.

The gilded bikini worn on-screen by Fisher in 1983's *Return of the Jedi* has remained perennially popular — and parodied — ever since.

Comedian Amy Schumer struck a suggestive pose with C-3PO while dressed as Leia on the August cover of *GQ*. Montclair label UNTLD was awarded a \$15,000 prize in a Star Wars costume contest held during To-



“There’s not a lot of embellishment... Without even seeing the movie, what that tells me is that the society is not doing that well.”

Saul Drake, Smithsonian

ronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week in October with their interpretation of Leia's look.

Recent published reports suggested that Disney plans to retire the two-piece from use in product sales and marketing. Company representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The fact that it's a very male-centred world makes anything that Leia wore stand out," Armstrong said. "Leia's costumes are very (much) drawn on some of the male shapes but are very feminine."

Armstrong said the fashion formula established early in the Star Wars series was "incredibly successful" and it would be wise for those now steering the franchise not to veer too far off-course.

"They'll want to have something to appeal to the old fans, the people like me that saw it in '77, and they're going to want to appeal to a whole new generation of people. ... Once they've had success with this first one, you might see them try to take some more liberties."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maya Rudolph is anti-social(media)



This photo shows John Leguizamo as Dave and Maya Rudolph as Brinda, in a scene from the film, *Sisters*, directed by Jason Moore. K.C. BAILEY/UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP

Q & A

The SNL vet on *Sisters* and steering clear of social media

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



When SNL vet Maya Rudolph isn't busy being hilarious — like in the new comedy *Sisters* alongside Tina Fey and Amy Poehler — she's busy raising her four young children with her husband, filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson. So it's understandable why she doesn't have much time for social media. But even if she did, she'd avoid it all the same.

Your character, Brinda, has a major chip on her shoulder from high school. How was it playing that kind of long-held resentment?

It is fun. I think the insecurity of Brinda's character really is our own collective insecurity. Everybody wants to be invited to the party. That's sort of the worst possible feeling in terms of high school days. You don't want to be the person that's left off the list. I feel like with Brinda it's almost as if she was just waiting for Kate (played by Fey) to come back to her hometown so she could be like, "See? I've really got my life together."

It's interesting how that FOMO (fear of missing out) turned her into a mean girl. She has major FOMO. I just learned about FOMO. But everyone's got FOMO. Well, not everyone. Some people don't. Some people are actually content.

Twitter and Facebook have made it more pronounced. Yes. I don't dabble in those things. Maybe I was just born so early in the '70s that it's just so hard for me to relate to the idea of sharing everything. When I do see other people's Instagrams or Twitter, it's such a carefully edited version of themselves, so everything looks f—ing great. Everything is perfect. Your life is perfect. But also I don't want anybody to know my business.

And it's a lot of work.

I feel like if I was constantly doing that and not doing the other things I need to do, I would hate myself a little bit. I don't have enough time to do the things I'm supposed to be doing, so it would just feel like pure procrastination.

Has anyone ever pressured you to do it for work?

Yes. When I did my variety show, I was given a Twitter account... And so I announced it, like, "Hey! My show's coming on. You should watch it." And the response was so crazy. I obviously had not set up my settings correctly, but

people started responding and my phone would not stop. It felt weird.

That sounds terrifying.

It was. And I'm not used to it. I'm not good at it. I'm good at other things.

Such as?

Roller skating. But not ice skating. And I do not know how to rollerblade either.

How does this compare to crazy parties you've been to?

This is the craziest party. I mean, I did go to a lot of parties in high school. I grew up in L.A., and the thing to do was just go to random parties. You'd just go to somebody's house. It was so stupid, everything about it was dumb. The concept of it is just so screwed up. "Hey, there's a bunch of children in a home and the adults are gone and everyone's wasted!" That's a very, very dangerous, bad idea.

Do you think that new perspective has to do with being a grown-up and a parent?

That's the worst payback ever, actually having to think about that stuff. I don't have tattoos, but there was a time when I wanted one. And then my daughter, her cousin drew these dots on her face and I was like, "If you're going to get a tattoo you need to talk to me first. We need to have a conversation." What's happening to me? (laughs)



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Amidst all the excitement surrounding the seventh and final installment of the Star Wars franchise, Carrie Fisher admits her greatest fears about returning to set. CONTRIBUTED

In quotes: Stars on making of Star Wars

J.J. Abrams (Director)

Coming onboard: "This is a project that I felt incredibly lucky to be asked to be a part of. I think I speak for all of us, except for maybe Harrison, when I say this was not a job," he says before laughing. "I'm kidding, Harrison was unbelievable. But the process of this movie — to a person on the crew, to a person on the cast — this was not a job. This was nothing that I think any one of us took on because it was a gig that was available. It was something that felt like a true passion."

The guiding principle: "At the very beginning, it was about knowing why we were telling this story, and it was to give people that sense of possibility and magic that we all felt when we first saw the



original Star Wars movies," he explains. "It's not a nostalgia trip. We had to go backwards in order to go forwards."

His worst day at work: "The scariest day, for me, was when Harrison Ford was injured, which is just absolutely hideous," Abrams remembers. "But every day felt like there were challenges, because I knew how important this was to so many people. That was never a presence that went away."

Carrie Fisher (General Leia Organa)

Biggest fears going into the new movie: "Bad memory. Not remembering my lines. That was scary," the outspoken Fisher says. "I'm the custodian of Princess Leia, so I never got out of character, and I wondered if that would be noticed. No, I was very nervous. It's been 40 years. It's been a long time. I don't like looking at myself at this age in a large way, so that was scary, and remains so."

Fastest to set: "How long did it take to get into costume? About 10 minutes. I'm older, I do it faster," she says with a laugh. "No, really, 20 minutes. I have a kind of classy gas station attendant look (in this movie). Or I would say I was an airplane



“I’m the custodian of Princess Leia... I was very nervous. It’s been 40 years. It’s been a long time.

repair mechanic, with a nice vest over that. And different hair than most airplane mechanics would normally have."

Harrison Ford (Han Solo)

Coming back: "It's always nice to anticipate working on something that you know people will have an appetite for. This is not a crap shoot. This is a big casino, and it's fun to play with these toys again," Ford says of returning to the franchise. "It seemed easy to come back to the character. Clothes make the man. I've walked more than a mile in those boots. I was interested in the described path of the character. I thought there was an interesting bit of business for the character to do."

Helping the kids: "I'm not going to tell them how to navigate this very personal space of trying to figure out the careers that they've chosen for themselves," Ford says of John Boyega, Daisy



Ridley and Oscar Isaac. "It's bizarrely individual how you navigate the space between where they're at now and the rest of your useful professional life. But they're in for a big ride, and they know it, I think."

Tough crowd at home: "My kids do not think I'm cool at all," Ford says with a laugh. "Being in this movie is not going to convince them otherwise. They're just glad to see that Dad is still working."

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

My brother and I will be watching The Force Awakens wondering why no manufacturer ever released Aunt Beru's Blue Milk

Food doesn't factor large in that galaxy, far, far away. There's the scene on Tatooine where Luke drinks blue milk in his uncle and aunt's kitchen. There's the scene in the Mos Eisley cantina where glowing cocktails are consumed. And there's the scene on Dagobah where Yoda breaks into Luke's kit rations and then Yoda cooks Luke a potent gruel in his hut.

Maybe that's because food is small potatoes compared to the sustenance of the Force. But that didn't stop my older brother from fashioning pieces of white, crustless Wonder bread into "space pellets."

Star Wars was the first movie that he ever saw in a cinema. It was the summer of 1977. My dad took him. He was 5. George Lucas' mythology and his characters, made

an impression on him that is still strong today.

By 1980, I was old enough to join in to see The Empire Strikes Back, and Return of the Jedi, too, three years later. I remember taking photos of each other posing like Jedi Knights with our Polaroid cameras and then rotoscoping the lightsabers with magic markers; and saying, "May the Force be with you" in lieu of

"Good night" after our parents tucked us in.

But here's the thing: his experience, ours, is not singular. Multiply it by many, many millions. This is why I can't wait to see the box office numbers this weekend after Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens opens on Dec. 18. The film's teasers and trailers have been viewed over 400 million times. I'm not sure there's ever been anything like it.

My brother bought our tickets — for me, him, our partners and my dad — in October. Only recently did we discover that our mother

is having cataracts removed the same day. She knew how important the movie was and didn't want to be the cause of disrupting our plan. But Simon was adamant that he skip the movie to take her to and from the operation. Let that sit for a second: while my mother has surgery, her kids will be watching a movie — wondering why no manufacturer ever released Aunt Beru's Blue Milk — and a non-blood relation will tend to her.

"What is wrong with us?" My brother recently asked me. "I have no idea," I said. As for Simon? The Force is strong with that one.

Now playing



DRAMA/COMEDY Sisters

Director: Jason Moore
Starring: Tina Fey, Amy Poehler

Two disconnected sisters are summoned home to clean out their childhood bedroom before their parents sell the family house. Looking to recapture their glory days, they throw one final high-school-style party for their classmates.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 89% **Audience:** 96%



ANIMATION The Good Dinosaur

Director: Peter Sohn
Starring: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright

What if the cataclysmic asteroid that forever changed life on Earth actually missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct?

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 81% **Audience:** 81%



ANIMATION/KIDS Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip

Director: Walt Becker
Starring: Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler

Through a series of misunderstandings, Alvin, Simon and Theodore come to believe that Dave is going to propose to his new girlfriend in New York City... and dump them.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 8% **Audience:** 82%



DRAMA In The Heart of the Sea

Director: Ron Howard
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker

In the winter of 1820, the New England whaling ship Essex was assaulted by something no one could believe: a whale of mammoth size and will. The real-life disaster would inspire Herman Melville's Moby-Dick.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 60% **Audience:** 70%



ACTION & ADVENTURE Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Director: J.J. Abrams
Starring: Harrison Ford, Daisy Ridley

In this continuation of the Star Wars saga, balance returns to the Force as the First Order, emerging from the ashes of the Empire, clashes with the Resistance, which includes newcomers and heroes from the former Rebel Alliance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 94% **Audience:** 99%



ART HOUSE/INTERNATIONAL The Legend

Director: Brian Helgeland
Starring: Tom Hardy, Emily Browning

The true story of the rise and fall of London's most notorious gangsters, Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who captivated the public and once upon a time lorded over a criminal empire. An integral part of London's East End, and the iconic Swinging Sixties.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 60% **Audience:** 73%

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The Shortest Day calls all the shorts



FREE FILM SERIES

Canadian films join in a global celebration of short movies

Shorter attention spans are spawning memorable movies.

That's how award-winning Toronto filmmaker and animator Sol Friedman sees it. His eight-minute film *Bacon & God's Wrath*, a whimsical

study of a 90-year-old Jewish woman weighing her decision to have her first taste of pork, is among 28 shorts screening in various locations during the free film series called The Shortest Day.

Started in France in 2011, The Shortest Day is now in 50 countries and is called a "celebration" of shorts, rather than a film fest.

The Canadian-made movies are bundled into four free programs: Dramas and Comedies; Kids; Family and Musical.

They screen Friday to Monday at more than 80 venues across Canada, from shopping malls to theatres, leading up to Tuesday's Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Go to theshortestday.ca for a list of programs, films and locations.

"This art form, which has always been on the periphery... is certainly having its moment," said Friedman, 33. He blends action and animation in *Bacon & God's Wrath*, along with a real pig's head that has

a "conversation" with Razie Brownstone about her musings on religion, family and why, with the help of some research on "the Google," she's ready to eat bacon.

Bacon & God's Wrath is also having its moment. After screening at TIFF, it will be part of the Sundance Film Festival's shorts program in January and was recently named one of Canada's Top 10 short films for 2015.

Friedman

said he wanted to make a short on the subject and needed somebody willing to "break this taboo." He found it in Brownstone, a family friend.

It's an exciting time to be a filmmaker, he said, a bit like the Wild West. "With the tools being what they are, there's no excuse not to make a film if you're so inclined."

The shorts in the showcase are made using live action, stop-motion and animation techniques, and include Torill Kove's Oscar-nominated *Me*

and *My Moulton*, Cordell Barker's *If I Was God* and Tamara Segura's experimental short about music and memory, *Song for Cuba*.

Films from other filmmakers include *Call It Blue*, directed by Ryerson University's Julia Hendrickson, winner of Best Student Short at the Kerry (Ireland) Film Festival, and Amir Honarmand's *Be the Snow*, about a pillow that runs away from home to explore the world.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCREENING

Some of the films screening for The Shortest Day from top: *Be the Snow*, *Call It Blue*, *Song for Cuba*, and *Bacon & God's Wrath*.



Q&A WITH ACTOR SARAH GADON



Inspired by long-vs.-short filmmaking, we set a challenge for Sarah Gadon, ambassador for The Shortest Day film celebration: give five-word answers to our long questions.

You have appeared in shorts and you made your directing debut with an episode of the Movie Network documentary series *Reel-side*, which could indeed be considered a short. Why do you think shorts are a good method for you to explore your creativity as an actress and filmmaker?

Shorts = less money to make. There are 28 shorts organ-

ized into four thematic programs. As someone who has worked so extensively with David Cronenberg (*Maps to the Stars*, *Cosmopolis*, *A Dangerous Method*), what would you call a program that was made up of Cronenberg shorts?
Indigestion: Brief Encounters With Pain (18A)

As The Shortest Day's 2015 English-language ambassador, do you see an ambassadorial role elsewhere for yourself now that you have the experience — perhaps in the diplomatic service, working at an embassy or

the United Nations, or as the Canadian ambassador to a country of your choosing?
Yes. Global film ambassador, please.

If there was an opportunity for a filmmaker to collaborate with you on a film project that could eventually become a short film about you and your life, perhaps your day-to-day existence and how you spend your free time away from the cameras, what would this short be titled?

Codependence: A Small Canadian & Caffeine (PG).



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The taste of success

DOCUMENTARY

Film looks inside the best restaurant in the world

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Noma: My Perfect Storm may capture 33-months in the kitchen of Rene Redzepi's four-time winning Best Restaurant in the World, but Pierre Deschamps actually never set out to make a movie about food.

"The first goal was to focus on Redzepi," admitted the filmmaker ahead of the documentary's release in select theatres and on VOD.

"The backdrop is Noma. I didn't want to go too much into the making of the food itself because we have TV shows and they do that all the time. I was really trying to tell the story of a person in a specific context and what that person achieved."

Redzepi's accomplishments are certainly worth attention. The young Danish chef has not only run world-renowned Noma, a restaurant in Copenhagen, he also invented New Nordic Cuisine — an artistic, locally-based gastronomy that relies heavily on seasonal ingredients and foraging. Perhaps more importantly, Deschamps explores how an ostracized Muslim youth battled racism and still seemingly suffers the insecurity of being an outsider — even as he runs the Best Restaurant in the World.

"I knew he has issues with racism (and) I knew with Noma, he was trying to do something different. The sum of those factors made him who he became," said Deschamps. "When you look at Redzepi's story, it's a guy who climbed the ladder of success within a few years to become the God of Food — people will be surprised looking at the ups and downs."



It's a guy who climbed the ladder of success within a few years to become the God of Food

Pierre Deschamps on Rene Redzepi



MORE EATS

Top three restaurants in Canada:

Toque! — Montreal

This fun Montreal restaurant has focused on local ingredients for an inventive menu made of gastronomic delights like pan-seared foie gras and venison loin.

Hawthorn Restaurant — Vancouver

With its elegant interior, the décor of Hawthorn is as swanky as its French and West Coast-influenced cuisine, which ranges from entrees like parmesan-crusted chicken to grilled sturgeon with squid ink risotto.

Buca — Toronto

An Italian spin on fine-dining, executive chef Rob Gentile serves up such fare as hand-rolled ricotta gnocchi or crispy pigs' ears with fennel. Even famed chef Jamie Oliver once tweeted his "favourite meal of the year" was at this upscale alleyway eatery.

Movigoers will also see behind the curtain of one of the most celebrated kitchens on the planet. There may be scenes of Redzepi rejoicing his apprentices' gastronomic experimentations, but they're equally balanced by brazen sequences of the famous chef emotional and unhinged.

"He knows me a bit — who I am and my philosophy about life. And he knows I wasn't going to dig into private stuff," admitted Deschamps about capturing such intimate moments on-screen. But the filmmaker is also quick to credit Danish culture's broad respect for "tall poppy syndrome" for Redzepi's modesty as well.

"You need to make sure you respect everyone and you shouldn't think of yourself too much," explained Deschamps.

"I think Rene has kept that sort of humility."



The documentary Noma: My Perfect Storm, about the famous Copenhagen restaurant, is out on VOD today. CONTRIBUTED

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The dark side of holiday movies

ROUNDUP

Black Christmas isn't the only film to trade tinsel for terror

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Without Black Christmas, a groundbreaking 1974 Canadian horror film there might never have been a Jason Voorhees, Freddy Krueger or Michael Myers. These characters owe much to one film made in Toronto, a movie Film Threat magazine calls "the first modern slasher movie."

The film enters its fourth decade this year, a milestone celebrated with the release of Black Christmas, the Season's Grievings Edition in late November. The story of a sorority house terrorized by a murderous stranger has been given the deluxe Blu-ray treatment, packed with a Santa's sleigh of new features. It is one of the great Christmas horror movies, but it isn't the only one.

Here's a look at holiday films without an ounce of tinsel treacle.

Silent Night, Deadly Night
Originally called Slayride, this movie about a teen who goes on a murderous rampage dressed as Santa after his parents are killed, changed its name for release. In its first weekend it out-grossed Nightmare on Elm Street, but then parents angry at Santa's por-

trayal as an axe murderer picketed theatres, and the box office dried up.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Imagine if our collective image of Santa Claus had been shaped by Allegory of Gluttony and Lust painter Hieronymus Bosch instead of some nameless commercial artist at Coca-Cola and you'll get an idea of the dark edge of Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas. The jolly fat man in the red suit is gone, hijacked by a skeleton in a pinstriped suit. The story of the mayor of Halloweentown who kidnaps and impersonates 'Sandy Claws' to bring his own brand of good will to the world is a Disney release but it is one of the rare ones that isn't meant for the entire family.

Santa Claus

K. Gordon Murray was a film producer best known for snapping up the rights to foreign films, dubbing them into English for American audiences. His best-known pick-up was Santa Claus, a strange Yuletide flick about St. Nick and Merlin doing battle with Lucifer.

Originally produced in Spanish and featuring a Santa Claus who doesn't live at the North Pole, but above it, in a magic castle in outer space, it isn't exactly scary, but may be the weirdest movie on this list.

Elves

When most people think of Dan Haggerty visions of the gruff but kind-hearted mountain man from the 1970s TV show The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams come to mind. B-movie fans,

however, remember him as Mike McGavin, a down-on-his-luck department store Santa who does battle with a bloodthirsty Nazi elf in Elves. It suffers from cheesy dialogue — "I had a rough day at work... Santa got murdered" — and the fact that a movie called Elves features only one elf, but it's so ho-ho-ho-horrible it's fun to watch.

Silent Night, Zombie Night

Walking Dead fans might get a charge out of Silent Night, Zombie Night, a Christmas viral outbreak movie so realistic a concerned citizen called the police during filming, citing gang violence.

The LAPD showed up by foot, car

and air only to find movie zombies battling with prop weapons.

Christmas Evil

Christmas Evil is the best of the Santa as serial killer movies and before you ask, there are quite a few of them. In this one a boy is traumatized after walking in on his parents in flagrante with dad dressed as Santa. He develops daddy issues and a Santa fixation and one Christmas Eve brings murder home for the holidays.



The 1974 Canadian made Black Christmas has been touted as the first modern slasher movie.

CONTRIBUTED



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6 GIFTS FOR THE MUSIC NERD ON YOUR LIST

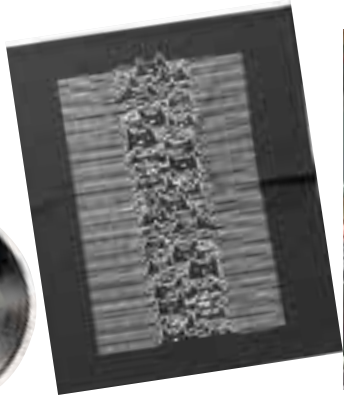
With a week to go before Christmas, we're in the Red Zone when it comes to panic shopping. What to buy the music fan/musician who has everything? Fear not because Alan Cross is here to offer gift suggestions for all budgets. **ALAN CROSS/METRO**



1 Cufflinks

OK, so cufflinks aren't as popular as they once were, but for \$13.50 US, I found a pair on Etsy that looks like tiny vinyl records.

Website: etsy.com/shop/monedus



2 Album Artwork Blanket

Society6 has a nice selection of throws depicting blown-up versions of classic albums. I'm stuck between one based on My Bloody Valentine's *Loveless* and another of Unknown Pleasures from Joy Division. For \$49 US, you could opt for both.

Website: society6.com/throw-blankets



3 Blood-spitting KISS doll

While KISS action figures date back to the '70s, the new 2015 edition of the Gene doll comes with "BLOOD SPITTING ACTION." It can be yours for \$69.99 US from Figures Toy Company.

Website: figurestoycompany.com



4 Jack White's turntable for kids

You can bestow the pleasure of vinyl on your kids with a bright yellow portable turntable from Jack White's Third Man Records. Officially called Manny's Children's Turntable, it plays albums, 45s and 78s and comes with a USB port for converting vinyl into MP3s. A steal at \$89.95 US.

Website: thirdmanstore.com



5 Music-themed toilet seats

Jammin' Johns, a company that promises "music to your rear," offers a selection of toilet seats with lids shaped like an acoustic guitar, a grand piano or the backside of a Fender Strat. You can view them all in the company's Throne Room (seriously). Expect to spend at least \$200 US.

Website: jamminjohns.com

6 Sennheiser Orpheus Headphones

These 'phones from Sennheiser combine vacuum tube and solid-state technology. Frequency response is 8-100,000 Hz, which reproduces sound bats can't hear. Just under \$76,000. Merry Christmas, one percent.

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5

CLASSIC TV HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Brian Gasperek
For Metro Canada



If you haven't had a chance to kick back with a glass of spiked

eggnog and stream Bill Murray's holiday Netflix special, *A Very Murray Christmas*, you're totally missing out.

The show is not only as captivatingly bonkers as you would expect, it also pays a great hom-

age to all of the classic Christmas variety specials from television's past. Especially the really weird ones.

Dating back to the late '50s, celebrity-hosted Christmas specials were a huge draw on TV every

winter. They featured singing, dancing, lovable guest stars, and some questionably thin holiday-themed plotlines.

The popularity of these specials lasted several decades, and a handful of them still remain

notorious today.

Whether it's because of their festive nostalgia, their utter ridiculousness or their disastrous legacy, here are 5 classic Christmas TV specials that you need to go back and watch.

1 The Star Wars Holiday Special

All of the hype surrounding *The Force Awakens* this month reminded us of the most ridiculous, must-see Christmas special of all time, *The Star Wars Holiday Special* from 1978. Yes, this actually exists and it's beyond weird. Although this special is more plot-driven than the others we mentioned, it's still intended to be a wholesome family variety show, and features singing, comedy and celebrity guests. The special revolves around a disgruntled-looking Star Wars cast attempting to get Chewbacca home to his family in time to celebrate 'Life Day.' Bea Arthur, Art Carney, Jefferson Starship and other guest stars all make very confusing appearances in what was a blatant Star Wars cash-grab. It's so much of a mess that even George Lucas says he hates it! Look it up on YouTube.



2 The Judy Garland Christmas Show

In the early '60s, *The Judy Garland Christmas Show* aired as a sweet, wholesome variety special that was fit for the entire family. But if you watch it now, it will completely floor you. The special, which took place just a few years before Garland died from a barbiturate overdose, was entirely sponsored by a pharmaceutical company! It features a visibly troubled-looking Garland, hosting a Christmas celebration with her children and guests at their faux home. It includes a plethora of uncomfortable moments, like the suggestive duet performed by Garland's young daughter Liza Minnelli and her boyfriend Tracy Everitt, Everitt's bizarre crotch-accentuating sweater and a couple different Santa visits that feel more like home invasions. The special is available on YouTube. It's crazy.



3 Andy Williams and the NBC Kids Search for Santa

Speaking of baffling, the premise of Moon River singer Andy Williams' 1985 Christmas special was so unbelievably offside, it would never air today. The show features a 58-year-old Williams convincing several child actors from popular NBC sitcoms like *The Cosby Show* and *Punky Brewster* to run away with him. He takes the kids to Finland, where they proceed to spend time in a secluded cabin in the woods, all in an effort to track down Santa Claus. No, really. The singing and dancing displayed by the children is almost as frightening as the plotline. A young Joey Lawrence's performance is exceptionally awful. You can watch clips from the show on YouTube.



4 Mr. T and Emmanuel Lewis in a Christmas Dream

If you want to see a special so atrociously bad it's good, you need to watch Mr. T and Emmanuel Lewis' *Christmas Dream* from the mid-'80s. Yes, at one point in history, Emmanuel Lewis and Mr. T were big enough stars to warrant having their own primetime Christmas special. Lewis, riding high on Webster fame, plays a kid who's lost all of his holiday spirit. Mr. T plays one of Santa's lackeys who attempts to restore Lewis' festive cheer. The singing is as terrible as you can imagine, and the special's one notable guest, magician David Copperfield, comes across as a creep. It's a cheesy train wreck, but you can't look away. You can find clips of it on YouTube.



5 Pee-wee's Playhouse Christmas Special

Pee-wee Herman's Christmas special from 1988 is an absolute must watch. The show combines the nostalgic singing and dancing from classic '60s holiday specials with the weekly weirdness that was *Pee-wee's Playhouse*. Along with Herman himself, the special features all of Pee-wee's bizarre Playhouse friends like Chairy, Cowboy Curtis and Charo. The strange cast interacts and performs with a solid line-up of '80s special guests that include Cher, Magic Johnson, Glen Close, Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah. The special is available on Netflix and should appeal to children, adults and stoners alike.



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Canuck cartoonist on Jughead reboot

COMICS

Writer-artist talks working with childhood favourites

As a kid in Barrie, Ont., cartoonist Steve Murray had an affinity for Archie Comics wry guy Jughead Jones, Marvel's anthropomorphic Howard the Duck and, of course, Star Wars.

Now the writer-artist is a part of those very worlds, thanks to a skyrocketing comic book career that has him so busy, he jokes: "It's not a good move."

"It's not good for my health, it's not good for my relationship, it's not good for anyone, really," Murray, who goes by the pseudonym Chip Zdarsky, said with a laugh in a recent phone interview from his Toronto home.

Indeed, the former National Post illustrator and columnist has enough projects on the go to even rattle the seemingly unflappable Jughead.

He's writing the rebooted Jughead series for Archie Comics, which launched in October, as well as a new Howard the Duck Marvel Comics book series that kicked off in March.

Meanwhile, he continues to illustrate his hit series Sex Criminals, which won a Will

Eisner Comic Industry Award and has been optioned for a TV pilot by Universal Television.

And he recently drew a variant cover for issue No. 1 of Marvel's Star Wars: Vader Down comic.

The rare cover, featuring Darth Vader and Jaxxon the green rabbit, went gangbusters on the auction circuit: one copy recently sold on eBay for about \$3,700 US and another sold for \$4,000 during an online auction set up by Canada Cares. The latter sale will help support a Syrian refugee family's journey to Toronto.

Murray, whose other comics include Prison Funnies and Monster Cops, developed a passion for drawing as a child.

"I didn't do too well in art in high school, I think just because I always wanted to draw comics," said Murray, "so anything else I tried to turn into a comic book and the teacher would get upset with me."

While studying art at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont., he had to do a 3-D recreation of a 2-D work of art. He built a comic frame around himself, had a speech balloon pointed at his head and impersonated Jughead.

"I recreated a panel from a Jughead comic just because of my affinity for the character," he said. "I think I got a C-plus. I don't think the teacher quite

BOOKS

Edmonton-born Steve Murray, a.k.a. Chip Zdarsky, has been busy.

Murray is writing the rebooted Jughead series for Archie Comics, which launched in October, as well as a new Howard the Duck Marvel Comics book series that kicked off in March. He's also penning "a sci-fi 'Wizard of Oz' saga" for Image Comics called Kaptara, with the first issue due out Dec. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



considered Jughead 'art.'

An ironic notion now, given the fame the easygoing, burger-loving character has brought Murray on the convention circuit.

Murray said Archie Comics felt he was a good fit for Jughead because of his Chip Zdarsky online persona as well as some comical banter he had on Facebook with his hometown Applebee's restaurant that went viral last year.

"The Archie crew saw that as a very Jughead-style thing," he said, "and in my youth I kind of looked more like Jughead - but the burgers catch up to you."

In the new series, Murray has kept Jughead's smarts and asexual nature but amped up his sarcasm. "Part of the com-

The burger-loving character gets a make-over in the new comic series written by Chip Zdarsky.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ic is teaching Jughead that there's more to the world than his narrow view of it," he said.

Murray's involvement with Howard the Duck also harkens back to his childhood.

"Howard the book I loved as a kid, so it was pretty easy to come up with ideas for the pitch," he said.

"Whenever I'd go to my uncle's house I'd go through

his collection and read them all."

He said he's had fun playing with the connectivity between the characters in the Marvel Universe.

"I think in my first issue of Howard, I threw She-Hulk and Spider-Man in just to say that

I've written Spider-Man and She-Hulk. And now I see Howard popping up in other people's books, my version of him, and that's also just such a thrill, because you become part of a larger thing."

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LISTEN NOW!

A cultural getaway to Montreal



The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is putting the spotlight on the Beaver Hall Group, a female artist ensemble based in the city in the 1920s. KATHY BUCKWORTH/FOR METRO

IN 48 HOURS

Art, history and French-inspired flavours await in dynamic city

Kathy Buckworth
For Metro Canada



Montreal has an international reputation for fabulous cuisine, fantastic shopping and fine arts. You only need spend 48 hours to get a taste of this trendy and growing city, which has rightfully earned a UNESCO City of Design designation.

Day 1

In the heart of the city you'll find the Golden Square Mile, running from Avenue Atwater to rue Saint-Denis, world-famous for its concentration of art boutiques. Start your day with the city's best-known "power breakfast" hot spot, Le Renoir at the Sofitel Hotel. Walk a few scenic blocks down the street to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The wonderfully curated "Colours of Jazz" exhibition runs until Jan. 31, featuring the unique brushstrokes of the predominantly female artist ensemble the Beaver Hall Group, who painted in a Modernist style in the 1920s.

Lunch at the café at the museum is both French and modern fusion inspired; blood pudding, Moroccan octopus and seasonal fare are just some of



Le Renoir restaurant at the Sofitel Hotel. SOFTEL PR

the elegantly plated feature dishes. Save room for the exotic assortment of desserts.

Put your power shoes on to head out for an afternoon of shopping at some of the country's most exclusive shops, including Tiffany's, Gucci, Escada, and Montreal's own favourite department store, Simons.

Unload your shopping and head into Le Bar, a hopping bistro that attracts both young millennials and senior executives, featuring a line of apple-based Neige cider drinks and an eclectic bar menu, showcasing their famous charcuterie board and tasty local Quebec cheeses.

Day 2

Stop for a croissant at one of the many aromatic bistros and bakeries on rue Sainte-Catherine, before heading for your next museum hit at the McCord Museum, which specializes in the preservation of Canadian history, as well as offering fun

and educational children's programming. Want to feel like a lady who lunches? Be one by dropping into the Holt Renfrew lunchroom, and linger over a drink before planning your next shopping move.

Relax in your room at the Sofitel and order an in-room spa treatment, or if you're looking for a true rural Quebec experience in the midst of your urban visit, head to La Face Cachée de la Pomme, an hour outside of Montreal, and the birthplace of ice cider. Extreme cold temperatures allow for the creation of this unique drink experience, and exemplifies what they call "Quebec culture in a bottle." Tours are available and their foie gras, made with ice cider, is a particular treat, perfect for the end of an artisanal- and action-packed two days.

Kathy Buckworth was a guest of the Sofitel Hotel, Montreal.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

'Tis the season... to snorkel with seals on Snake Island

Snorkelling with harbour seals may seem like an unlikely Canadian wintertime activity, but tourism officials in Nanaimo say it's definitely doable.

A local dive company, Sundown Diving, takes visitors to Snake Island for the experience, providing the necessary equipment such as wetsuit, gloves, mask and snorkel. The island is a 15-minute boat ride from Nanaimo off the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Company owner Ed Singer says there are way fewer tourists on his \$100-per-person tours

now than in the summer, and the water is certainly chillier, but there is more to see.

"The water is clearer at this time of year. You're seeing more marine life, and you can see the seals swimming around under the water at a distance," Singer said.

"In the summer or spring when the visibility might be poor, often you're just seeing the seals coming close to you when their heads are above water."

He said his guests spend about 45 minutes in the water

now, somewhat less than in the summer. No special skills are required.

"They don't have to be great swimmers because the suit is very buoyant, so they're gonna float for sure."

Not just a summer destination

Tourism Nanaimo wants potential visitors to know that the city is not just a summertime destination. It says year-round experiences include:

- The self-guided Nanaimo Bar

Trail, along which you can taste variations of the sweet treat. The 2015 Nanaimo Bar Trail brochure has 34 stops.

- Culinary tours, which also drop in on breweries and wineries. Operators include Vancouver Island Expeditions, Tracks Outdoor Adventures and Harbour City Transportation.

- The Nanaimo Museum, where permanent exhibits include a replica coal mine shaft. In Decem-

ber the museum is presenting "Christmas in the Golden Age of Radio," featuring its radio collection.

- The Cedar Yellow Point Artisan Trail, highlighting artists who craft one-of-a-kind items.

- Gabriola Island, a short ferry ride away. Besides arts and dining options on the island, there are also Christmas craft fairs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



3 WAYS TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

Not many days from now, the planet will bid farewell to 2015 and welcome 2016 with open arms. We're taking a world tour of the big cities where New Year's is a major cause for celebration. Let's take a look at what's planned in London, New York and Rio de Janeiro. **AFP**



BEN STANSALL/AFP

1 London, U.K.

The U.K. capital celebrates New Year's on the banks of the River Thames, opposite the Palace of Westminster. Unfortunately, since 2014 visitors need a ticket to watch the spectacular firework show above Big Ben, a decision taken last year to ensure spectator safety. All the tickets have now been snapped up. The show begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 2 a.m.

The place to be: London Eye, The Queen's Walk

Watch it at home: Those unable to get a ticket will be able to watch the show on the BBC One TV channel, which broadcasts it live.

>> london.gov.uk



JEWEL SAMAD/AFP

2 New York, U.S.A.

The Big Apple is a must-do for those who want to celebrate 2016 in style. The entertainment is concentrated in Times Square where all the famous brightly lit billboards form part of the event. The lineup of performers this year include Carrie Underwood, Demi Lovato, Luke Bryan, and Wiz Khalifa with Charlie Puth.

The place to be: Times Square

Practical tips: It's better to arrive early to be sure to get a place and see the Times Square ball drop. It's advisable to take Sixth or Eighth Avenues to get to Times Square. The police close the adjacent roads.

>> timessquarenyc.org



GUSTAVO PELLIZZON/AG/AF

3 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

New Year's in Rio is the second-biggest popular event in the city, after its mythical carnival. More than two million people attend. There's a firework display at midnight that lasts for around 20 minutes. This year the display and soundtrack will be themed around the Olympics, set to take place in August 2016 in the city.

The place to be: Copacabana Beach

Safety precautions: It's better to wear shoes rather than sandals. As the celebrations take place on the beach and champagne will be flowing, there could be fragments of glass in the sand.

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ON THE MOVE

From London to Peru, best cities for meals that excite

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada



According to Christine Couveller, a culinary consultant who watches global food trends, the best travel memoirs always include food memories.

I recently asked her about Travelocity.ca's list of the hottest destinations in culinary tourism and why these cities made the cut.

Montreal, Canada

This fabulous food city focuses on tradition and pride. Head to Schwartz's, offering the best smoked meat since 1928.

Visit the Atwater market where there is a store with more than 800 varieties of cheese. The Montreal bagels are hand-rolled, dipped in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven. You can wander around



The Farmshop bakery in L.A., and, at right, a dish at Nopi in London. SPENCER LOWELL; INSET: CONTRIBUTED

in there for a whole afternoon.

Los Angeles, U.S.A.

One of the things happening in L.A. is the rising popularity of communal dining. A table or two offering a communal dining experience is becoming part of many destination restaurants.

Farmshop Santa Monica is a

great spot to make some new foodie friends. Picture sharing a meal at a big wooden table in the middle of the restaurant surrounded by shelves stacked with gourmet food products.

Chicago, U.S.A.

With such a wide range of ethnicities represented in this city,

dining in Chicago is a marathon, not a sprint. The food community in this city is focusing on the combinations of sweet and heat. Head to Topolobampo with Chef Rick Bayless, the leading Mexican chef in all of North America. Have the achote-marinated suckling pig, it's wrapped in banana leaves. I



love the poached papaya on the side.

London, England

One of the biggest trends is

vegetables as the star of the plate and there is no better place than London, England, to really taste this trend.

Be inspired by Chef Yotam Ottolenghi (Ottolenghi, Nopi), known for his vegetarian Mediterranean cuisine.

Head to one of the great produce markets. I love markets. You see what the locals are purchasing and how their day-to-day lives rotate around the market area.

Lima, Peru

A culinary tour is fabulous but a chocolate tour is even better, and there is a

great focus on the origin of chocolate in Lima. A chocolate museum and numerous chocolate boutiques allow you to experience the nuances in the different flavours of chocolate.

On a side note, one restaurant not to miss is Central.

It is considered one of the best restaurants in the world with a menu that focuses on tastes in four parts; mountain, sea, desert and jungle.



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TRAVEL NOTES GALAXY QUEST, SANTA'S ROOTS

Adventure sharing

Startup tour company Embark is a booking site with a difference: It's an adventure-sharing platform that lets you create, share and book adventures around the world with other like-minded adventurous people. The growing network of local guides is ready to take you skiing, hiking, ice climbing, camping, kayaking or fly fishing, person to person. Visit Embark.org.

Space on Earth

You can actually visit the barren lands seen in Star Wars: Episode VII. Filmmakers chose the sand dunes of Abu Dhabi to shoot the desert scenes, in particular the Empty Quarter desert, which has the world's largest uninterrupted sand mass. Insight Vacations offers a four-day stopover in Dubai that includes a four-wheel drive trek into Abu Dhabi and its nearby sandy film set. Visit InsightVacations.com.

Santa's hometown

While the folklore spans multiple cultures, the Turkish seaside town of Demre lays claim to being the birthplace of St. Nicholas in 270 AD. Unsurprisingly, he was known for his charity and secret gift-giving to the poor. Visitors to Demre can see frescoes depicting the saint's life and work in the Church of St. Nicholas, a solid example of Byzantine architecture. Visit Go-Turkey.com. DOUG WALLACE



The world is your oyster. STOCKSNAP



Episode VII stars the dunes of Abu Dhabi. CONTRIBUTED



The Church of St. Nicholas in Demre, Turkey. CONTRIBUTED

Get the most at the last minute

SHOPPING

It's not too late to find great Christmas gifts

Astrid Van Den Broek

Of course. You waited too long to snag that Dr. Who Tardis adult onesie and now they're all sold out. Now what are you going to get your sister? And when are you going to tackle the rest of your Christmas shopping?

Not to worry — we asked these top shopping bloggers for their best tips on approaching the last-minute Christmas shop.

Stay cool

"Christmas shopping can get overwhelming, especially if you've left it late, so take a minute first to really think of creative or thoughtful gifts to give your loved ones," says Tiffany Anthonia, the blogger behind shopaholicoverhere.blogspot.com.

Plan your shopping

Write down your list of who to shop for and check it twice. "And try to shop at stores that have a variety of product categories to save time when you have an entire list to shop for," adds Anthonia. If you can, also opt for low-traffic shopping times — think during the week as soon as the mall or stores open rather than wading into after-work, rush-hour shopping.

Set your limits

"I'm a fan of the 'do it all at once' approach," says Anne



Last-minute holiday shopping can be overwhelming, so experts say it's important to remain thoughtful and find those rare times when malls aren't too crowded. ISTOCK

Keery, the blogger behind UniqueGifter.com. "But if this is a source of stress, give yourself reasonable constraints, like 'Everything needs to come from this mall in the next three hours.' Setting boundaries for yourself can make things a lot less worrisome."

Make alternative arrangements

Your "it" item is out of stock online? "If the retailer has a brick-and-mortar location, see if the item is available in-store because most major retailers including Best Buy, Toys "R" Us and Walmart offer free in-store pickup. This way you can buy the item online, then get an email within an hour

or two when it's ready to be picked up in-store," says Kyle James, founder of rather-be-shopping.com.

Get creative

Or try posting a "Wanted" ad for your must-have item on classified sites such as Craigslist and Kijiji, and also check eBay.

"Alternatively, give a card with the name of the gift and a future delivery date," says Keery.

Or use that gift idea as inspiration. "At least you know what gift direction you wanted to go, so find a gift that's either similar or complementary of that gift you had in mind," says Anthonia. "You might come across an even better gift."

FESTIVE FILMS

Finished shopping? Cue movie

Keith Carman

Christmas films: a time when almost anything goes, so long as it features a decorated tree and some sort of life lesson.

Grabbing us in the midst of holiday cheer, virtually anything on the silver screen is bound to fly. But there are a few notables to keep in mind.

It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

George Bailey (James Stewart) wishes he never existed, a mindset changed by an angel, who shows him how lives would have been impacted for the worse without him.



How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

This live action version of

Dr. Seuss' 1957 book features everything from kitsch to comedy; introspection to wistfulness. And one heck of a makeup budget.

Scrooged (1998)

Bill Murray as a belligerent/self-obsessed TV executive thrust into a modern-day version of Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)

This stop-motion animated flick has become a classic unto itself, airing regularly throughout the season. Cute, heart-warming, and a must for all ages.

Love Actually (2003)

Sometimes we just need a bit of romance for the holidays.

A Christmas Story (1983)

Who can forget young Ralphie Parker and his quest for the ultimate Christmas gift: a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle with a compass in the stock and "this thing which tells time?"



National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Chevy Chase reviving his Clark W. Griswold for a third — and probably best — installment, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation features a hilarious version of every situation we've encountered personally: annoying family, faulty decorations and ... kidnapping our boss? Well, maybe not the latter.

Krampus (2015)

One of the few new entries to the fold this year is — of all things — a horror flick. A dysfunctional family pushes their child to despise Christmas. Little does he know that this mindset unleashes the wrath of the demon Krampus, punisher of non-believers. Cue the fight for survival and aforementioned life lesson.

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Give the gift of giving to others

Ylva Van Buuren

Could there be anything more satisfying than finding the perfect gift for those you love? Absolutely! Knowing that the gifts are doing good for others, too. Here are some gift ideas that keep on giving.

Agriculture Pack

A World Vision Agriculture Pack provides seeds, animal feed, tools, training and emergency food to families in need. It costs \$35, but partnerships with the Canadian government and various companies and agencies double the value to \$70. Visit worldvision.ca/gifts.



1

Charity Gift Cards

When you wrap up a CanadaHelps gift card, the recipient gets to choose which charity to support. There are more than 86,000 registered

charities with CanadaHelps ranging from local health and arts and culture to environmental and social service charities. Gift cards start at \$5. Visit canadahelps.org.

Help Syrian Refugees

There are many ways to help a Syrian family coming to Canada. Check in your community to see if a family is being sponsored, make a donation or volunteer your time or services. There is also the Syria Emergency Relief Fund. Visit charityintelligence.ca/syrian-refugees.

TOMS Slippers

Women's White Gold Boucle Slippers are a perfect holiday gift. Plus, for every pair of TOMS shoes you buy, the company provides a new pair of shoes to children in need. To date, the company has given more than 45 million new pairs of shoes to children around the world. \$55/pair. Visit toms.ca or select retailers across Canada.



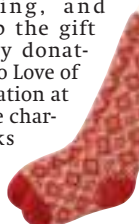
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Shop for Hope

From the exclusive Shop for Hope collection at Winners and HomeSense, the net proceeds from the sale of the Plush Owl go to the Canadian Women's Foundation. \$14.99/each. Available at Winners, winners.ca and HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Gift with a Gift

Choose a gift at Indigo such as the Fair Isle Socks with Faux-Sherpa Lining, and keep the gift going by donating to the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation at the cashier. The charity puts books into the hands of high-needs elementary school children. \$34.50/pair. Visit Indigo stores, chapters.indigo.ca.



4

Help Free the Children

All artisans gifts purchased from Me to We help Free the Children communities overseas. A Ghanaian Brass Halo

Necklace, for example, gives a woman access to a prenatal workshop. A Rafiki, made with colourful glass beads threaded onto a stretchy 48-inch cord and worn as a bracelet, necklace, etc., helps educate a child for one year. Necklace, \$32, Rafiki, \$10. Visit shop.metowe.com.

Angels for Angels

Goods sold by Ten Thousand Villages are made by artisans in marginalized communities around the world, and every purchase helps those communities. At the same time, \$2 from every purchase of the handcrafted Capiz Angel ornament from the Philippines will help fund Breakfast for Learning, the first national charity focused on nourishing Canadian children. Ornament, \$20. Visit tenthousandvillages.ca or select retailers across Canada.

Help At-Risk Youth

Until Dec. 31, \$5 from the sale of every Samsung Galaxy Grand Prime purchased

from Virgin Mobile will go towards the company's RE*Generation program that

helps connect at-risk and homeless youth with training, skills and opportunities for employment.

The slim-line phone with 1.2 GHz Quad Core processor, long-lasting battery and 5 MP camera is \$249 (price varies by plan). Purchase it at Virgin Mobile retail and virginmobile.ca. Virgin Mobile members can also participate by adding 'Change for a Dollar' to their monthly phone bill to donate \$1/month to the cause.

LA-RS Bracelets

Modeled after the Cartier love bracelets, these ONEX-ONE bracelets benefit the onexone.org charity and help feed children a healthy meal. Each set comes with four colours to represent various human races. Join celebrities Chandler Parsons, Rita Ora, Diplo, Marcus Stroman,

Hailey Baldwin and others... and try them on for size. \$30. Visit la-rs.org.

Help WWF

Adopt a Spirit Bear for \$40 and help the World Wide Fund for Nature protect the species. You'll receive a kit containing a plush bear, adoption certificate, poster and reusable WWF tote bag. There are more than 30 different species to choose from. Visit shop.wwf.ca.



5

- 1 World Vision Agriculture Pack, \$35
- 2 Ten Thousand Villages Capiz Angel ornament, \$20
- 3 TOMS White Gold Boucle Slippers, \$55
- 4 Indigo Fair Isle Socks, \$34.50
- 5 World Wide Fund for Nature Spirit Bear, \$40

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Gift giving the Canadian way, eh?



Todd Lewys

Whether it's a family member, friend or work associate, we all know someone who's wild about all things Canadian. Here's a quick snapshot of some gifts sure to please the person in your life who's a connoisseur of Canadiana.

HBC Olympic 2016 Collection Mittens (\$12) and Toque (\$25)

While wrapping yourself in the Canadian flag is heartwarming, it can't keep you warm on cold winter days. A pair of Olympic Collection 2016 mittens and an Olympic Collection Canada marled toque, however, can. Combine them in a gift box, or use them as stocking stuffers. Available at Hudson Bay Company, thebay.com.

Roots Women's Maple Gloves (\$48)

On frigid days, it's imperative to keep your digits in working order, so why not bless the woman in your life with a gift that looks great and will keep her hands from becoming ice blocks on frigid days: a pair of functional — and fashionable — women's maple gloves. Available at Roots, roots.com.

Roots Men's Lumberjack Boot Sock (\$16.50/pair)

Patriots will love this gift — a pair of thick, cozy socks emblazoned with a maple leaf that come

in red, white or blue trim with another Canadian classic — a snow-capped mountain scene. Available at Roots, roots.com.

Gap Men's Onesie (\$69.95)

Shoveling the driveway or digging out the car after a howling blizzard is a daunting task for even the hardest Canadian male. This warm thermal onesie will provide him with the protection required to keep muscles warm and limber as they churn their way through the snow. Available at Gap, gapcanada.ca.

Gap Women's Cable Knit Turtleneck (\$59.95)

Cold Canadian winter days call for extreme measures to stay warm. This cable knit turtleneck is not only festive, but provides a layer of warmth that envelops the torso and neck. Available at Gap, gapcanada.ca.

Great Canadian Gift Company's Canadian Bacon Scented Soap (\$6.99)

There's nothing much more Canadian than the smell of bacon, so why not bring it from the kitchen into the bathroom. It may not be the scent you think of when taking a shower, but it sure does reek Canada ... and yes, it really does smell like bacon! Available at thegreatcanadiangiftcompany.com.

Zazzle.ca's Grunge Canadian Flag Red Maple Leaf Courier Bag (\$139)

This is the perfect gift for those who bleed red and white and love to lug an extra sweater and other paraphernalia around: a cool courier bag with shoulder

strap, copious carrying capacity — and, most importantly, a red maple leaf and CANADA stenciled boldly on its front flap. Available at zazzle.ca.

Banana Republic Men's Plaid Shirt (\$85)

This shirt is a great choice on during the holiday season. Not only is it festive,

but it evokes the classic Canadian lumberjack look — and, it helps keep you warm on sub-zero days. Available at Banana Republic, bananarepublic.ca.

Zazzle.ca's Red Autumn Canadian Maple Leaf Throw Pillow (\$39.65)

This throw pillow is an ac-

cent piece that will add just the right touch of patriotic flavour — and colour — to a living room, den, rec room or cottage. Available at zazzle.ca.

Great Canadian Gift Company's Canadian Flag Placemat (\$13.99)

There's no better way to show pride in your country

than placing a Lady Rosedale Canadian flag placemat across your home's threshold. Available at thegreatcanadiangiftcompany.com.

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- 4 Great Canadian Gift Company's Canadian Bacon Scented Soap (\$6.99)
- 5 Roots Men's Lumberjack Boot Sock (\$16.50/pair)
- 6 HBC Olympic 2016 Collection Mittens (\$12)

Consoles that make the gift list



Mike Yawney

It doesn't matter how young or old you are; video games continue to be a dominant pastime. While no new gaming consoles launched this year, some unique limited edition bundles did surface. Here are the top picks for those looking to surprise a gamer on their gift list.

Xbox One Limited Edition Halo 5: Guardians Console - \$549

There is no denying the Halo

franchise is a force to be reckoned with, so it comes as no surprise Microsoft is releasing this limited edition Xbox One console for the holidays.

The design of the console itself is inspired by Spartan technology and has a massive 1 TB hard drive to store your games and media. The wireless controller also sees a redesign with a new 3.5-mm headset jack. Other bonus items include a Spartan-themed SteelBook case with Halo 5: Guardians Limited Edition full game download, a Guardian model and exclusive downloadable content.

Star Wars Battlefront PlayStation 4 Console - \$469.99

The ultimate PlayStation bundle for any Star Wars fan,



this unique console bears the image of Darth Vader's mask, while the DualShock wireless controller is designed after his chest panel. Not only does this come with the highly anticipated Star Wars Battlefront game, it also includes four additional classic Star Wars games to keep even the best gamers busy over the holidays.

New Nintendo 3DS XL - \$229.99

Nintendo's latest handheld console features not only a larger screen for more immersive gameplay, but new technology. Super stable 3D allows for a better experience and wider range of viewing angles. The handheld device also features built-in NFC functionality for communication with

Nintendo's new Amiibo figures.

HP Pavilion Gaming Notebook - \$899 and up

This surprisingly affordable, stylish laptop was designed with the gamer in mind. Armed with a quad-core processor and powerful graphics card, the latest laptop from HP can play the latest PC titles with ease. Since sound can play a huge role in games, HP teamed up with Bang & Olufsen to create an immersive audio experience.

Even the webcam has been enhanced with Intel RealSense to allow for facial recognition, 3D scanning and motion controls. Xbox owners will also be able to connect to the Xbox community and games thanks to Windows 10.

RetroN 5 - \$169.99

A single-game console with



enhanced resolution and improved sound, RetroN 5 can host games from 10 different systems supporting NES, Famicom, SNES, Super Famicom, Genesis, Mega Drive, Game Boy, Game Boy Colour and Game Boy Advance.

And the best part? You can save games on the fly, so even those most brutally challenging become manageable. Gamers must have the original cartridges in or to play games.

iPod Touch - \$249 and up

With access to thousands of games, Apple's iPod Touch has quickly become a favourite for those who love to play on the go. The latest iPod Touch has a significantly improved processor,

which can play the latest downloadable games from the App Store. Gaming is only part of the package; with a terrific camera and access to apps, you can use the iPod Touch to do just about anything.



1 Xbox One Limited Edition Halo 5: Guardians Console, \$549

2 New Nintendo 3DS XL, \$229.99

3 Star Wars Battlefront PlayStation 4 Console, \$469.99

4 RetroN 5 - \$169.99

5 iPod Touch - \$249 and up

6 HP Pavilion Gaming Notebook - \$899 and up

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Light up the eyes of gamers

Marc Saltzman

'Tis the season to be jolly, and what better way to keep the kids — and kids at heart — happy than with a brand new video game.

If it's console and computer gamers you're shopping for, the following are some thumb-numbing suggestions. Prices are generally \$49.99 to \$74.99, depending on the platform. Be sure to check the ESRB age-rating in the corner of the box before buying.

Kids

Most games let you play content created by other people, but Nintendo's Super Mario Maker (for Nintendo Wii U) also lets you design, create and share your very own Super Mario adventures. Along with the 60-odd playable Nintendo-made levels, the game includes tools to make two-dimensional platforming levels based on previous Super Mario games.

As you might suspect, you'll mostly run from the left side of the screen to the right, leap across platforms, break open



Nintendo's Yoshi's Woolly World

power-ups, climb into pipes, and jump on enemies to destroy them. After you've designed a world, play it through, hand the controller to a sibling or friend, or upload to the online community. You can download other creations, too.

One of the world's hottest kids' franchises is getting a reboot. Activision's Skylanders SuperChargers (for multiple platforms) once again fuses action figures with a video game — the toys come alive on the television screen when placed on the Portal of Power, which is connected to the console — but now there's collectible vehicles added to the mix. Players can tackle missions by land, sea and air, in a number of customizable and upgradeable vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, boats, tanks, helicopters



Star Wars Battlefront

and submarines. The game also introduces 20 new Skylanders characters, but parents will be relieved to learn the game also supports all existing Skylanders characters.

Other kids' games that won't disappoint: Nintendo's Yoshi's Woolly World, Disney's Disney Infinity 3.0, WB Games' LEGO: Dimensions, and Sony's Tearaway Unfolded.

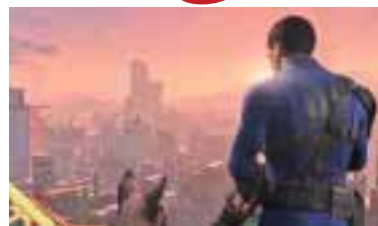
Teens

Launching just ahead of the film Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens, Star Wars Battlefront from DICE and Electronic Arts (PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows PC) drops players into intense intergalactic battles based in iconic Star Wars locations — such as the snowy planet of Hoth — pitting Rebel forces against

the Empire.

Along with playing as characters based on the original movie trilogy, you'll pilot beloved vehicles, as well, ranging from AT-ATs and TIE fighters to speeder bikes and even the Millennium Falcon. The game includes many online multiplayer modes and mission types for dozens of simultaneous players.

Guitar Hero is back after a five-year hiatus and it's nothing short of ambitious. Along with single-player and local multiplayer options, Activision's Guitar Hero Live (for multiple platforms) introduces a mode called GHIV, an always-on 24-hour music video network that lets you log on, strap in and strum to a continually updated collection of music videos and concert footage. That is — instead of the cartoon-like



Bethesda Softworks' Fallout 4

animated bands from previous games — you can rock out to your favorite artists and discover new music, while challenging others for high score.

Other recommended games for teens: Sony's Uncharted: The Nathan Drake Collection, EA Sports' NHL 16, and Activision's Destiny: The Taken King.

Adults

One of the most buzzed about games of the year, Bethesda Softworks' Fallout 4 (Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Windows PC), is the long-awaited return to the beloved single-player, open-world, role-playing game series. The follow-up to 2008's Fallout 3 lets you choose to play as a male or female and select a specific set of skills, and then venture out of a vault 200 years after an

apocalyptic event. Played from a first- or third-person perspective, you can freely roam around huge environments, interface with memorable characters and gain access to more than 50 base weapons and more than 700 modifications. Plus, gamers can take advantage of a deep crafting system to create unique adventures.

The next installment of the legendary sci-fi shooter franchise, Halo 5: Guardians, is the built to showcase the power of Xbox One. Complementing its intense storyline — which can be run with three friends in a cooperative (co-op) mode — this new game focuses heavily on competitive multiplayer. One mode called Warzone challenges up to 24 players to battle on the biggest maps in Halo to date, while taking on multiple objectives including big boss battles, with land and air craft to aid in the fight.

Other worthy games for adults: Ubisoft's Assassin's Creed: Syndicate, CD Projekt Red's The Witcher 3: Witch Hunt, Activision's Call of Duty: Black Ops III, Microsoft Studios/Crystal Dynamics' Rise of the Tomb Raider, and Konami's Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain.

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Janine Falcon

SCENTS FOR HER

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L'Occitane Pierre Hermé Grapefruit Rhubarb

When the chef behind the world's best macarons uses his exceptional senses to create perfume, delightful things happen. This fresh, spicy eau de toilette is lively and sweet without being sugary. \$65 at L'Occitane en Provence, ca.loccitane.com.



Etat Libre d'Orange Remarkable People

Warm and sweet with champagne, fruit and spice, this oriental fragrance is for women and men. Give it to your other half with a "let's share" and a wink. \$107 at borchbox.ca.



Tory Birch Holiday Cracker and Candle

The fashion designer's signature crisp floral charms with festive wrapping; pair it with the luxurious candle scented with the same fragrance for home. \$31 and \$72 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



Atelier Cologne Necessaire Azure Gift Set
Each of the four travel-sized atomizers in this collection is a fragrant escape to the Italian coast, evocative of deep blue sky and sea,

and sunny, citrus-scented breezes. \$32 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



Nina Ricci L'Extase

Deeply sensual with heady florals, musk, amber and caramel, this oriental is about smooth warm skin and ruffled,

1000-threadcount Egyptian cotton sheets. \$95 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

Miu Miu Miu Miu

The first fragrance from Miuccia Prada's Miu Miu label is a bright, alluring floral perfume, youthful and sweet, with a hint of nostalgia. The only thing missing is a display case for its unique and wonderful bottle. \$135 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.



Dior J'Adore Touche de Parfum

A new concept for Dior, this intensely floral dabber, anchored with musk and sandalwood, is designed to enhance whatever's spritzed on top... such as Poison or the J'Adore she already owns and loves. \$112 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



The Body Shop Black Musk

Fourth in the very successful range that started with White Musk in 1981, this dark and sweet gourmand-rich oriental floods the senses with marzipan, almond, licorice root, black



vanilla and black musk. Choose from eau de toilette, eau de parfum and perfume oil — or give her all three.

From \$25 at The Body Shop, thebodyshop.ca.

Aerin Lauder Rose de Grasse

An opulent, singular floral fragrance lauded (see what we did there?) for its plush, real-life bouquet scent, this gor-



geous perfume is ideal for anyone who adores roses. \$205 at Estée Lauder, esteelauder.ca

Tocca Beauty Eau de Parfum Wardrobe

An enchanting gift set of six enticingly feminine

fragrances in utterly adorable, Instagram-worthy mini dabbers, this collection pretty much calls ahead to reserve prime real estate on her vanity. \$50 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



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A gift that makes scents, for him

Janine Falcon

Fragrance is all about personality. Our roundup has one for every guy on your "nice" list — and maybe your "naughty" list too.

Aramis Black
A new urban-man eau de toilette that



goes from the office to happy hour; this scent starts with bold, crisp, green leafy notes and gradually develops its aromatic side — juniper wood sweetened with tonka bean and rich cognac, smoky leather and white incense. \$64 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.



Floris No. 89
A British scent released in 1951, this is for the well-dressed retro fellow in your life. A traditional woody aromatic with citrus and rose, it finishes with woods, moss and musk. Fun fact: Bond creator Ian Fleming was a fan. \$105 at menessentials.ca.

L'Occitane Eau de Cedrat
Could be his Monday-morning best mate, with its eye-opening burst of bright, citrusy bergamot, that soon softens to spicy nutmeg, ginger and smooth, woody notes. \$58 at L'Occitane en Provence, ca.loccitane.com.



Prada Luna Rossa Sport
Most "sport" scents are all about invigorating freshness. This eau de toilette is softer, warmer and sweeter, with juniper berries, lavender, vanilla and tonka beans. He'll wear it after the game, for congratulatory cocktails to celebrate his win. \$72 at Murale, murale.ca, and Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

per, vanilla, patchouli and tonka. Mugler fans will dig it like dessert. Limited edition, \$99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca, and Jean Coutu, jeancoutu.com.



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The Vagabond Prince
Land of Warriors

For old-world warriors on horseback or tatted, modern weekend warriors on bikes — this niche eau de parfum is all about leather, worn-in like a well-loved moto jacket, with notes of rum, woods and tar. \$200 at menessentials.ca.

Giorgio Armani Acqua di Gio Profumo

A follow-up to immensely successful sea-and-citrus Acqua di Gio (which debuted almost 20 years ago), this elegant scent is a darker version, with marine and spicy notes that break over patchouli and incense. \$109 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Thierry Mugler A*Men Ultra Zest

Newest in Mugler's lineup of AMen scents, this bold eau de toilette opens with a splash of juicy sweet orange and ginger and develops with coffee notes, cinnamon, pep-



Penhaligon's Juniper Sling

For the guy who likes a good early hike followed by a hot toddy to temper the chill, this eau de toilette begins with the freshness of fragrant pine on a crisp morning and warms up with leather, cinnamon and cardamom, plus cherry, sugar and amber for a sweet hit. \$195 at menessentials.ca.

Valentino Uomo Edition Noire

The graphic matte black bottle broadcasts the personality of this eau de toilette, a potent oriental fragrance with cedar, hazelnut, leather, chocolate and roasted coffee bean notes. It's dark, sweet and suggestive. \$98 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Iman Shumpert calmly delivered his daughter when his fiancée unexpectedly went into labour in their bathroom

Players in no hurry to usher in full face shield

NHL

Despite latest gory Hamhuis scene, visors are still preferred

The gruesome sight of Dan Hamhuis on the ice with his legs flailing made fellow NHL players cringe. A shot like the one that cracked the Vancouver Canucks defenceman in the face could happen to anyone.

Hamhuis is out two months after surgery to repair facial fractures. Even though he wears a visor like a vast majority of the players now, it couldn't save him when a slap shot from the New York Rangers' Dan Boyle hit him in the jaw from close range.

Only a full-face shield or cage could have prevented that injury. The league and Players' Association only two years ago mandated visors for incoming players, but there could be a day in the distant future when full facial protection like in youth, college and women's hockey, is commonplace in the NHL.

"It's probably the next step," San Jose Sharks coach Peter

DeBoer said. "No one thought helmets were coming in and they did, and then no one thought visors were coming in and they did. I'm sure there will be a day down the road one day here where it is (normal). I think it's a ways off. It'll get here one day."

One Eastern Conference executive said no matter the rules on visors, there will always be an outlying injury that occurs and doesn't think it's an immediate problem that needs to be addressed. Ian Laperriere had his playing career ended by a puck to the eye that caused a concussion, but the Philadelphia

Flyers assistant doesn't believe face shields are necessary.

"It's something that the game is faster and the puck's flying out there," Laperriere said by phone Thurs-

day. "But if you think about it, it doesn't happen that often."

Canucks coach Willie Desjardins said recently that "you forget how vicious the game is sometimes" and recalled Hamhuis experiencing a near miss of a puck whizzing by his visor two games earlier.

"That happens on a regular basis and it's probably surprising that maybe more guys don't get hit," Desjardins said.

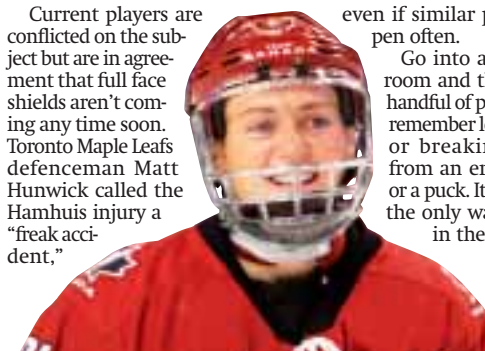
"I think it's a ways off. It'll get here one day."

Sharks coach Peter DeBoer on the full-face shield



The Canucks' Dan Hamhuis skates off the ice after being struck in the mouth by a puck.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



All women hockey players, such as Canada's Geraldine Heaney, wear a full face shield — as do all U-18s. GETTY IMAGES FILE

even if similar plays happen often.

Go into any locker room and there are a handful of players who remember losing teeth or breaking bones from an errant stick or a puck. It's basically the only way anyone in the NHL now

puts on a full face shield.

Philadelphia Flyers forward Sam Gagner, who recently suffered a concussion when his head hit the ice, remembers breaking his jaw in 2013 and was no fan of wearing the full shield.

"It hinders you," Gagner said. "Your vision of the puck, it throws that off a bit."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AHL

Moose endure slugfest, Rampage

Thursday's rematch turned into a grudge match at MTS Centre as the 5,742 on hand bore witness to a melee-infused battle between two AHL clubs with no love lost. The Manitoba Moose erased a two-goal deficit to secure their first back-to-back wins of the season with a 3-2 victory over the San Antonio Rampage.

Likely fuelled by Manitoba's 5-1 drubbing of the Rampage the previous evening, the two clubs combined for 76 penalty minutes — including four fights — leading to four of the game's five goals coming on the power play.

In a span of just 42 seconds early in the third period, Moose captain John Albert found the equalizer with the man-advantage before Ryan Olsen's game-winner completed Manitoba's comeback bid.

Goaltender Eric Comrie was solid for a second consecutive night with 30 saves, while Moose defenceman Brenden Kitchton tallied a pair of helpers and Patrice Cormier notched his fourth goal of the season — his second in as many games.

Manitoba (8-14-1-2) completes its pre-holiday-break schedule with a quick trip through Milwaukee and Chicago on Saturday and Monday, returning to action on New Year's Eve against Iowa on home ice.

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No joking around for 'Batman' showdown

NFL

Beckham in for test vs. top corner Norman

Odell Beckham Jr. promises that no matter what cleats he wears against the Panthers on Sunday, his matchup with Josh Norman could be one for the books.

It would have been apropos had the Giants wide receiver reprised Monday night's Miami footwear that carried the image of The Joker as a counter to Norman's "Batman" nickname.

But Beckham said Thursday he doesn't want to play the name game against Carolina (13-0).

"I don't need no Batman or anything else," said Beckham, who wears custom cleats every game, thus leaving him with an interesting collection at career's end. "I'll be able to look back and remember special moments."

Sunday's choice could stick out, especially if Beckham Jr. has a big game against the Pan-



Odell Beckham Jr. was in a villainous mood on Monday night in Miami. GETTY IMAGES

thers' shutdown cornerback. Norman has four interceptions this year, two returned for touchdowns. But just as impressive is the way he has neutralized top receivers.

Houston's DeAndre Hopkins, Dallas' Dez Bryant, and Atlanta's Julio Jones have 215 catches among them for 2,969 yards and

1,320

Odell Beckham Jr. sits third in NFL receiving yards with 1,320.

19 TDs. Against Norman, they have a mere seven receptions for 63 yards and no TDs. It's a matchup of Beckham's speed against Norman's smarts

and aggressiveness.

"Josh is a heck of a player in his own right," Carolina tight end Greg Olsen said. "He doesn't back down from anybody."

Nor will the Giants (6-7) as they try to stay in the NFC East lead, according to offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo.

"We're going to play our game," McAdoo said. "We're not going to shy away from anybody." They may move Beckham around to get a more favourable individual matchup, however.

Although Norman generally covers the opponent's best receiver, he has not ventured into the slot this year. Beckham, whose latest effort included seven catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns often lines up there.

Beckham leads the league with 12 receiving touchdowns. He has six straight 100-plus-yard receiving games. He has also drawn breathless comparisons to Jerry Rice from none other than Panthers coach Ron Rivera.

However it goes, the receiver won't be filling The Joker's cleats when he faces down Batman.

The new game plan calls for something different, on the field as well as on Beckham's feet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Buchanan Canadian player of the year

Kadeisha Buchanan had yet to reach double digits in age when Christine Sinclair started her run of 11 straight Canadian female player of the year awards in 2004. Sinclair, who also won the award in 2000, is still the captain and talisman of the Canadian women's soccer team.

But the 32-year-old star forward's stranglehold on the top player award ended Thursday when Buchanan, a 20-year-old defender who put her stamp on the world stage in 2015, was

voted BMO player of the year. "It's definitely quite a shock because obviously Christine has won it so many times," Buchanan, an unabashed Sinclair fan, told The Canadian Press from Brazil.

"It's obviously a great honour," she added. Sinclair and coach John Herdman no doubt led the cheering for Buchanan down in Brazil,

where the Canadian women are competing at the International Tournament of Natal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kadeisha Buchanan GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Chelsea sacks Mourinho after poor defence of title

Jose Mourinho's second spell at Chelsea ended prematurely Thursday with the team in decline only seven months after the Portuguese coach won his third Premier League title with the club.

Although Chelsea is only one point above the relegation

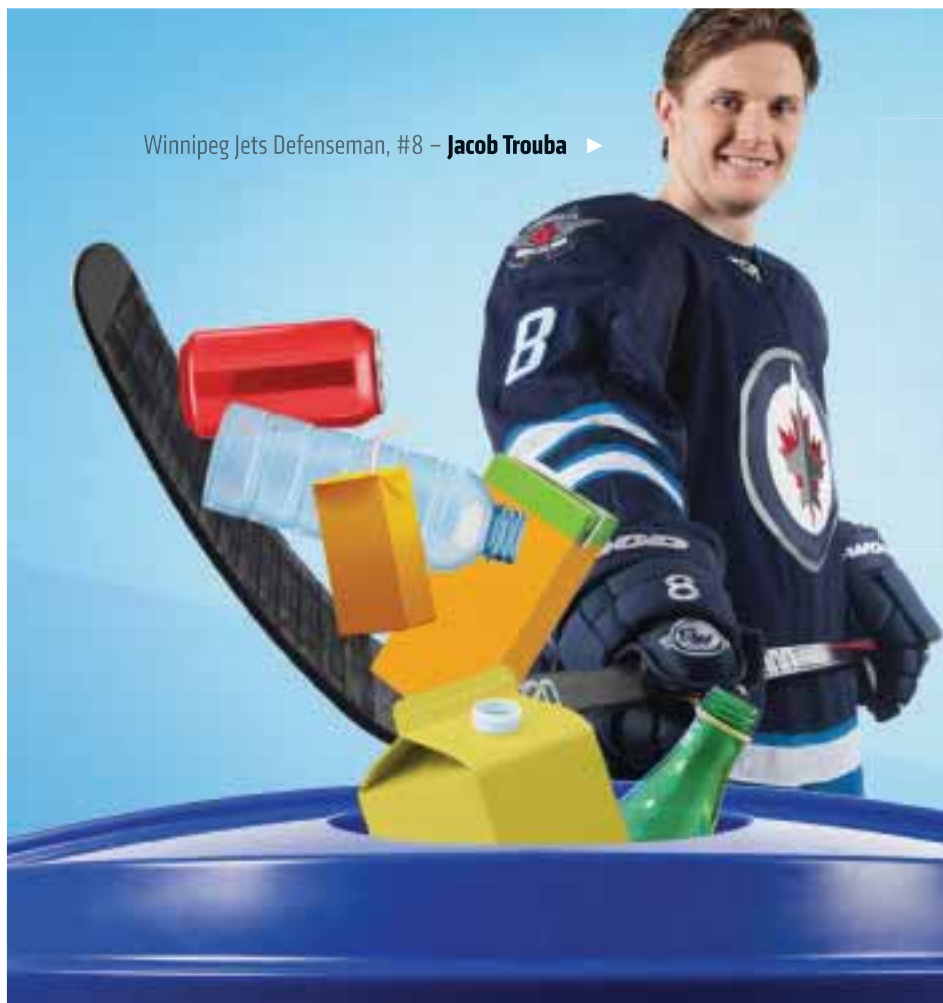


Jose Mourinho GETTY IMAGES

zone, the 52-year-old Mourinho had been defiantly insisting he was the right man to oversee the team even as Chelsea collapsed on the

field with a succession of humiliations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg Jets Defenseman, #8 - Jacob Trouba ▶



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Jacob Trouba of the Winnipeg Jets and Recycle Everywhere want you to get into the habit of recycling all your empty beverage containers. Every aluminum can, carton, juice box and bottle has the potential to be turned into something useful. That's a much better result than sitting in a landfill.



Series in Shapiro's sights

MLB OFF-SEASON

New front-office boss says Blue Jays are a title contender

Compared to the last few years, the Toronto Blue Jays have had a relatively quiet off-season.

There have been a few signings and some trade activity but the Blue Jays have so far steered clear of the free-agent frenzy and any blockbuster moves. Las Vegas still likes Toronto's chances in 2016, with most sports books pegging them among the favourites to win the American League.

New team president Mark Shapiro is also feeling bullish about the Blue Jays' chances.

"It feels like a team capable of winning the World Series next year," Shapiro said Thursday.

The Boston Red Sox have emerged as a slight favourite in the AL after the signing of former Blue Jays ace David Price, who inked a seven-year deal worth \$217 million US. The Blue Jays are in the mix of AL contenders with the Houston Astros, Kansas

10-1

On website Bet365, Toronto and Boston are co-favourites among AL teams to win the Fall Classic at 10-1.

+ JAYS AWARDS

The Toronto BBWAA has revealed its team award winners for 2015.

Josh Donaldson was unanimous player of the year and Marco Estrada was named top pitcher. Outfielder Kevin Pillar was named most improved and closer Roberto Osuna took rookie of the year.

City Royals and Texas Rangers.

Toronto is coming off a 93-69 season and its first playoff appearance in 22 years. They fell to the Royals in the ALCS in six games.

Toronto will bring back arguably the most feared offence in the major leagues in 2016, an-



Top playoff performer Marco Estrada will provide stability to the starting rotation when the Jays return to action in the spring. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

chored by sluggers Jose Bautista, Edwin Encarnacion and AL MVP Josh Donaldson. On the pitching front, the Jays lost Price to free agency but re-signed Marco Estrada, signed free agent J.A. Happ and acquired Jesse Chavez in a trade with Oakland.

New GM Ross Atkins said the

team has been engaged in discussions on several fronts.

"We are going to stay open-minded and if there is a way that we can creatively just add depth to our pitching or fortify our pitching staff, we'll do it," Atkins said.

Shapiro, Atkins and assistant

GM Tony LaCava met with members of the Toronto chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Thursday.

Shapiro said the possibility of Rogers Centre moving from artificial turf to grass is being considered but there are no firm plans in place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Orridge nixes move by Als coach

Noel Thorpe's reported resignation as defensive co-ordinator of the Montreal Alouettes was declared invalid Thursday by the Canadian Football League.

A statement from commissioner Jeffrey Orridge said Thorpe, who was also assistant head coach, cannot get out of his contract to join another club without written approval from the Alouettes. Thorpe was expected to accept the same job titles with Edmonton.

It also said that the Eskimos "did not violate the existing CFL by-laws and will not be subject to any discipline in this matter."

Orridge placed a moratorium on the movement of coaches between teams on Wednesday after reports that Thorpe decided to leave the Alouettes to join the Eskimos, despite having two years left on his contract. It prohibits coaches under contract signing with another club without his written approval.

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Donald Trump shows his true colours

There aren't many people more polarizing than Donald Trump.

His supporters show their love with pride and his haters are equally as vocal. Now there's a Donald Trump coloring book that will let you express however you feel toward the presidential candidate.

The Trump Coloring Book hits the shelves on Dec. 15.

Think he's a superhero? Color his costume red and blue, like a true American

hero.

Think he's the worst thing to happen to the United States since the Civil War? Make his cape and tights an evil black and red.

The pages were created in a way that lets you make him look positive or negative.

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♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

If you haven't done anything marvelous yet don't worry because there is still time — just. Make your move this weekend, certainly before the Sun changes signs on the 22nd.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

Changes are coming, changes that will enable you to move in a new, exciting direction when the Sun moves in your favour early next week. Do only what your heart tells you to.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

Geminis are supposed to be daring. Geminis are supposed to take risks. So what happened? Life is meant to be a great adventure. Make today the day when you re-discover your true nature again.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

When the Sun moves into your opposite sign of Capricorn in a few days you'll be at the halfway point of your solar year. It's a good time to take stock of how far you've come.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

This is no time to slow down. There is a lot to be done before the Sun leaves the most dynamic area of your chart on the 2nd. Creatively, and romantically, there is no limit to what you can accomplish.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't waste time and energy on senseless disputes with people you don't respect. Focus on more important matters between now and when the Sun changes signs next Tuesday.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Your present course is taking you in the wrong direction and you're missing opportunities simply because you're too stubborn to admit it. There's still time to get back on track.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Stand up for your rights and don't let anyone tell you what you can and cannot do. What others don't seem to understand is that you cannot be bribed or pressured to go against your principles. Flattery, of course, is harder to defend against.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The Sun remains in your sign a few more days, so make the most of it. Take every opportunity that comes your way and today can be special.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Recent weeks have been far from easy and there will be more challenges to come over the next few days. However, come Tuesday, when the Sun moves into your sign, things will start to get better in a big way.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Steer clear of other people's fights and feuds — there is nothing you can gain from them. If you stick your nose in where it is not wanted you're inviting someone to take a poke at it!

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Once again you're allowing yourself to be dragged into situations that are not good for you. Make an effort to put distance between you and those who would use you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3						1		2
		5	9				3	
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RECIPE Mexican Egg Bake



PHOTO: MAMA VIANE/EL

**Ceri Marsh &
Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada



• 1/2 cup Greek yogurt

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. In a medium-sized skillet, warm olive oil and sauté the onion and garlic until they begin to soften. Add spices and stir; cook 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and black beans. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up tomatoes. Simmer for about 15 or 20 minutes until sauce has thickened.
3. Gently crack the eggs on top of the sauce. Place skillet in the oven for 8 to 10 minutes, or until egg whites are cooked but yolks are runny.
4. Remove pan from oven and allow to cool a bit before placing on a trivet on the table. Scoop each serving gently, being sure to get an egg and a good amount of the bean sauce. Place extras — avocado, yogurt, cheese and cilantro — on table so everyone can DIY toppings.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
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A zesty tomato sauce punctuated with avocado and cilantro is the perfect bed for runny, baked eggs.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

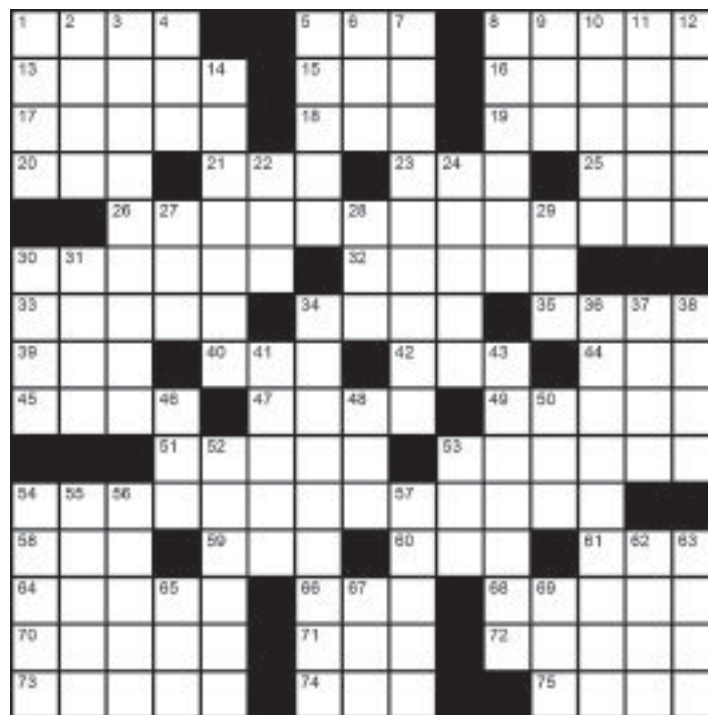
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp red pepper or cayenne
- 1 x 28 oz can tomatoes
- 1 x 14 oz can black beans, rinsed
- 5 eggs
- Small handful of cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 avocado, sliced
- 1/2 cup cheddar, grated

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Math instrument [abbr.]
5. Illuminated
8. 5th Dimension member Marilyn
13. Tropical greeting
15. Iron
16. Green spaces for homes
17. Particular parrot
18. Nourished
19. Fix that squeak once more
20. Pitcher's stat.
21. Boat's stern
23. Nero's 511
25. Key: French
26. Character in #14-Down: 2 wds.
30. Fashion designer Ms. Johnson
32. Tolerate
33. Bird-like
34. "Tres _!"
35. High-five-to-high-five hit
39. Sleep state, commonly
40. Cardinals player's baseball cap letters
42. Actor's representative [abbr.]
44. Diminutive suffix
45. Was aware
47. Remorseful person
49. Britannica, e.g.
51. Not _ (Not so far)
53. Crowd reactions to corny jokes
54. Villains-in-white-armour in #14-Down
58. Left tap's meaning
59. Haunted house



hooowl!

60. Feminine suffix
61. Lobster _ Diavolo (Seafood dish with pasta)
64. Book's beginning, briefly
66. " _ Have to Say the Words?" by Bryan Adams
68. Science fiction being

70. Clay pigeon shooting
71. 'Ether' suffix
72. It's often served with tongs
73. Abrasive
74. Sanctions, short-style
75. Gladiator's 951

DOWN

1. Arrived

2. Banned orchard spray
3. When a TV show airs regionally: 2 wds.
4. Repeated-word dance
5. Former factory living spaces
6. Wrath
7. Classic toy from Santa: 2 wds.
8. Immeasurable

9. Flight simulators co. headquartered in Saint-Laurent, QC
10. _Pot (Slow cooker)
11. Wearer of the black tutu in Swan Lake
12. Canadian doctor, the 'Father of Modern Medicine', William _ (b.1849 - d.1919)
14. "Star Wars: The

- Force _" (2015)
22. Tina of "Sisters" (2015)
24. Type of fighter craft in #14-Down, _
27. _ _ Today (American newspaper)
28. Trombonist Mr. Winding
29. _ Miserables
30. Tree trunk topping
31. All square
34. Canadian band that formed in 1984: 2 wds.
36. Production company behind #14-Down
37. Kirk _ "Superman" (1948) star
38. Bench press muscles, commonly
41. _ _ understand (Attempt at comprehending)
43. Nobel-winning Mother, and namesakes
46. Combat reason
48. Ike's WWII arena
50. Scand. land
52. Not lumpy or bumpy
53. Car's navigation aid, commonly
54. _ _ kebab
55. Toy truck brand
56. Furry mammal that can swim
57. Trompe l' _ (Visual illusions)
62. Authentic
63. "The King _" (1956)
65. Home addr.
67. Tree of acorns
69. Lake: French

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